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C O P I E S

O F

P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO THE

Reſtoration of the KING of TANJORE,

THE

Arreſt of the Right Hon. GEORGE LORD PIGOT,

AND THE

Removal of his LORDSHIP from the Government of FORT ST. GEORGE, by ſundry Members of the Council.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I. Containing Orders of the Court of Directors, and Minutes of Council entered on Conſultations.

VOL. II. Containing Letters from different Perſons reſpecting the above Tranſactions.

Printed in the Year MDCCLXXVII.

LETTER FROM ALEXANDER WYNCH, ESQUIRE, LATE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND GOVERNOR OF FORT SAINT GEORGE.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident and Governor, and the reft of the Council.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I WAS duly informed by the Right Honourable the Prefident, that the Governor-General and Council of Fort William had given orders to Captain Prefton to call here with the Hillfborough, to afford me an opportunity of going to England. I have the fulleft fenfe of the polite attention which the Governor-General and Council have fhewn to me on this occafion; but being acquainted, in a letter from Captain Prefton himfelf, that he had already difpofed of his great cabbin, and finding that I could have a convenient accommodation on the Ankerwyke, I have therefore taken my paffage with Captain Barwell.

By the Coventry frigate, which arrived here fix weeks before the difpatch of the Nottingham, I received advice that the Court of Directors had been pleafed to remove me from the Company's fervice. The injury that I felt I had fuftained at firft prompted me to refign it immediately, and embrace that opportunity of returning home; but on a little more reflection, I determined to wait their orders, and deliver up the Government to whoever fhould be appointed to receive it from me. I thought it was a duty I ftill owed to the Company, notwithftanding what had been done to me by the Court of Directors; and being fully confident in the uprightnefs of my intentions, I thought it was a duty I owed to my character in the world, and to the fatisfaction of my friends and my children.

The only inftance of my conduct that the Court of Directors have pointed out as reprehenfible, is that part of it which relates to the laft expedition againft Tanjore; it would however, in my opinion, have been but well in them to have recollected, that it was a meafure of the Government here, not of the Governor alone.

The ſubject of that expedition was firſt conſidered in the Select Committee, where all the members were preſent; it was unanimouſly recommended by the Committee to the Council, and there alſo it was reſolved on without one diſſenting voice. A very ſhort and ſimple inveſtigation of the Company's records will prove, I think, to the entire conviction of every one who may be candid and impartial enough to be open to conviction, that the Select Committee and Council could not have done otherwiſe than they did.

In 1769 the Court of Directors thought proper to appoint a Select Committee, and did me the honour to nominate me one of the members. In their letter of the 17th March of that year they write as follows:

Par. 7. " It appears moſt unreaſonable that the Rajah of Tanjore ſhould " hold poſſeſſion of the moſt fruitful part of the country, which can alone " ſupply our armies with ſubſiſtence, and not contribute to the defence of " the Carnatic. We obſerve the Nabob makes very earneſt repreſenta- " tions to you on this ſubject in his letter entered in the country corres- " pondence, wherein he takes notice, that the Zemindars of the Carnatic " have been ſupported, and their countries preſerved to them, by the ope- " rations of our forces employed in his cauſe; and that nothing was more " notorious, than that three former princes of the Carnatic had received " from the Tanjore Rajah, ſeventy, eighty, nay even an hundred Lacks of " Rupees at a time; that to the preceding Nizam he had paid a contribu- " tion of fifty Lacks; and the preſent, if he had met with ſucceſs againſt " our army, would not have been content with leſs than a Crore of Rupees " from this Rajah. How juſt then does it appear that he ſhould be made " to bear ſome part of the expenſe of thoſe meaſures, to which he owes his " ſecurity and the peace of his country? We therefore enjoin you to give " the Nabob ſuch ſupport in his pretenſions on the Rajah of Tanjore as " may be *effectual*; and if the Rajah refuſes to contribute a juſt propor- " tion to the expenſes of the war, you are then to purſue ſuch meaſures " as the Nabob may think conſiſtent with the juſtice and dignity of his " Government." †

In 1771 the Nabob made application to Mr. Du Pré and the Council to aſſiſt him with the Company's troops againſt the Rajah, for various reaſons, which are ſet forth in the records of that time; and he was ſtrongly ſupported in this demand by His Majeſty's Plenipotentiary in India, Sir John Lindſay. The Preſident and Council, after a good deal of correſpondence upon it with the Nabob and Plenipotentiary, complied with the Nabob's deſire, and iſſued orders for the army to march againſt the Rajah. The Nabob's eldeſt ſon, Umdut ul Omrah, accompanied it. He was fur-

† By a letter dated 23d March, 1770, the Court of Directors ſuſpended the execution of the above orders, as " utterly impoſſible to be carried into execution, without committing a " breach of treaty."

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nished with powers from his father, either to proceed to the final reduction of the Rajah, or treat and make peace with him, as he should find most expedient; and General Smith had orders to prosecute or suspend the war as the young Nabob should recommend. It was resolved, both in the Select Committee and Council, that in case the fort and country of Tanjore were reduced, they should be left in the Nabob's hands.§ The fort was invested, a breach was made in the wall, and the troops were on the point of making the assault, when Umdut ul Omrah, in consideration of a large sum of money offered by the Rajah, came to an accommodation with him. The Select Committee, in their letter to the Court of Directors, dated 28th February, 1772, stated very fully to them the difficulties and embarrassments they had found themselves under, while deliberating on this subject, from what, on one hand, seemed to them to be the part the Company *ought* to take, and on the other, what appeared to be the spirit and intention of their orders, added to the requisitions of the Nabob, supported with all the arguments that could be urged by the Plenipotentiary; they pointed out the danger of leaving the Rajah in possession of all his power, disgusted as he then was, and in the precarious situation he then stood, by being continually liable to fresh attacks from the Nabob; they represented the probability of misunderstandings soon arising again between them, wherein the Governor and Council would again be constrained to act; and they requested to be furnished as soon as possible with such direct and clear instructions, as should not leave any doubt what they were to do.

§ Vide Enclosure.

In April 1773 a letter from his Majesty to the Nabob † was presented to him by Sir Robert Harland, wherein his Majesty is pleased to express his satisfaction at hearing the President and Council had sent the Company's troops to assist the Nabob in reducing the Rajah to obedience.

† Vide Enclosure.

Early in June 1773 the Select Committee received a letter from Mr. Mostyn, the Company's Resident at Poonah, advising them that the Tanjore Vackeel there, a person well known to be such, had applied in the name of the Rajah for leave to raise ten thousand horse, which he said were to be employed by him against the Nabob Mahomed Ally.‡

‡ Vide Enclosure.

In the same month the Nabob represented, that the Rajah had not performed his engagements with him; that he was ten Lacks of Rupees in arrears; that he had intelligence of his having applied to the Marattas and Hyder Ally for troops to act against him; that he had encouraged the Colleries to plunder and lay waste some parts of the Carnatic; that he had entered into dangerous connexions with the Dutch, to whom and the Danes he had alienated some districts in the Tanjore country. That on his (the Nabob's) writing to the General of Batavia, complaining that the gentlemen at Negapatnam had assisted the Rajah during the late expedition against

against him, the General wrote to him in reply, that those gentlemen had done no more than they were bound to do by their engagements with the Rajah, and that in conforming to them they had done right. The Nabob, for all these reasons, called upon and required the Governor and Council to assist him with the Company's troops to reduce the Rajah, and acquainted them that it was indispensably requisite they should do so, not only to enable him to obtain his revenue, but for the security of his possessions.

The President and Council had every reason to believe, that the connexion which the Nabob alledged to subsist between the Rajah and the Dutch was no more than true; that he had made over some districts to them was certain: the Nabob affirmed that he was greatly in arrears to him, and that he had instigated the Colleries to ravage his country. Allowing that his application to the Marattas and Hyder Ally were not likely to prove efficacious, or even that it was doubtful whether he had seriously made such, still his assiduity in strengthening Tanjore, in purchasing warlike stores, and entertaining European foreigners in his service, seemed to portend a hostile intention. The President and Council had before them the orders of the 17th March, 1769; the example of Mr. Du Pré and the Council on the late expedition; the arguments then used, both by the then President and Council and Plenipotentary; his Majesty's approbation of that measure, expressed in his letter to the Nabob of the 7th April, 1772; and by the Court of Directors not having replied to the letter from the Select Committee of the 22d February, 1772, it might surely be inferred, that they had approved also.—The President and Council therefore, after having used every possible means for obtaining further information, and after having very maturely reflected, thought themselves under the necessity of again complying with what the Nabob required, and of adhering to the former resolutions of the Select Committee and Council, respecting the fort and country, in case they should be conquered. But so far from this latter part being a matter of choice with *me*, the Company's records will shew that I have ever used my utmost efforts to restrain the Nabob in all his attempts to increase of power and independency, being convinced that they were incompatible with the interest and security of the Company.—My sentiments and endeavours on that subject have, though very contrary to my inclinations, engaged me in disagreeable controversies with some of the other members of the Council, who were of opinion that this Government had no right or authority to interfere.

From the nature and matter of this address, your Lordship, &c. will be sensible how unpleasant it has been to me; it must doubtless have proved tiresome to you, but I hope you will forgive me for it; I have continued it merely to justify and explain that part of my conduct which the Court of Directors

Directors have condemned. There are other parts I could point out, particularly the very great increase of the investment, and having obtained security and payment of the whole of the Nabob's debt to the Company, which I flatter myself would claim their approbation; but in these I pretend to no further merit than in that part they have disapproved; in both I meant to discharge my duty.

The attachment I have to the Company, of which I never can divest myself, and the particular interest I take in the prosperity of their affairs under this Settlement, make me feel infinite satisfaction in the choice they have made of their President in these delicate and critical times. Be assured that your Lordship, &c. have my warmest wishes for your having uninterrupted harmony in your Councils and success abroad, being with much regard and esteem,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Fort St. George, Your most obedient

7th February, 1776. and very humble servant,

Alexander Wynch.

ENCLOSURE, No. I.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Select Committee, 10th August, 1771.

WE are therefore further of opinion, that of two evils we ought to chuse the least; and that it is less dangerous to let the conquest, if any be made, pass of course into the Nabob's hands and possession, than that the Rajah should be left dissatisfied, as he most certainly will be, and with power to become dangerous, which, as aforesaid, we think must be the consequence of any compromise made by the Nabob under the influence of his fears and jealousies.

In delivering this opinion, we do not forget the opinion we gave in our address to the Honourable Court of Directors, under date the 31st January, 1770, paragraph; 4 ‡ we remain fully and clearly of the same opinion; neither do we see cause to change in one tittle the opinions we have expressed in our former minutes, particularly those of the 9th July, of the

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‡ Page viii.

propriety of keeping the fort of Tanjore in our own hands ſhould it be taken. We are clearly of opinion, that we ought not to yield the point to the Nabob, if greater apparent dangers were not incurred by refuſing it; but as we think a preſent acquieſcence with the Nabob's propoſition the leaſt of the dangers which ſurround us, though it leads to danger, ſo we are of opinion it ought now to be complied with as an act of political neceſſity.

We deliver it further as our opinion, that although it leads to danger, it is not immediately dangerous; for there is no doubt, that while we have garriſons in the principal forts of the Carnatic, and have on foot ſuch a military eſtabliſhment as the preſent, we may with great eaſe control the Nabob, ſhould it be neceſſary, *and ſhould we be authorized to do ſo*; at preſent we have no authority to control him. It is not neceſſary here again to ſtate the ſenſe of the Court of Directors on the ſubject, or the ſpirit of the miniſtry; or to ſay any thing more of the 11th article of the treaty of Paris, hung over our heads in terrorem; we have been ſufficiently explicit in former minutes, particularly thoſe of the 29th July, with extracts annexed as *pièces juſtificatives*, if we may be permitted to uſe the French phraſe. The ſtate of affairs here will be clearly before our Superiors at home; they will alſo have our opinion of what may be expected as natural conſequences of increaſing the Nabob's power. If they and the miniſtry ſhould continue of opinion, that the Nabob's fidelity and attachment is ſuch, that the increaſe of his power is the ſame as an increaſe of the Britiſh power on the Coaſt; the reſolution of leaving the whole conqueſts, if any be made, in his hands muſt be approved, and we ſhall only be liable to cenſure for having doubted of the propriety of doing ſo. If, on the other hand, it ſhould be thought that ſuch an increaſe of power in the Nabob may become dangerous, the remedy is at home, and there only; and legal orders to the Britiſh delegates of the national power on the Coaſt may model and reſtrain it within ſuch bounds as ſhall be thought fit.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Select Committee, 10th Auguſt, 1771.

That we ought not to receive that, or any other ſum, or any conſideration of what kind ſoever, by way of compenſation, compact, or agreement, for reſigning to him the ſaid conqueſts, ſhould they be made, becauſe we mean to leave the Company at full liberty to make what arrangements they ſhall think beſt in theſe reſpects; but if we were to receive any conſiderations for reſigning the conqueſt, the public faith muſt be pledged for the performance of the agreement, and the Company could not deviate therefrom, without an apparent and dangerous breach of that faith. We are therefore

fore of opinion, that if it be neceſſary to take the fort and country of Tanjore, that the Nabob be tacitly left in poſſeſſion of the whole, in the ſame manner as has been before done, when Worriarpollam, Arialoor, and other Polygars, were reduced, as a matter of courſe, and without any declaration reſpecting the ſame; and that if the Nabob ſhall think proper to give the Company ten Lacks of Pagodas, or any other ſum, as a voluntary gift for their friendly aid, it be received, ſubject to the future pleaſure of the Court of Directors.

Extract from the Conſultation in the Military Department, 15th Auguſt, 1771.

The Select Committee communicate to the Board the ſubſtance of the conference between the Nabob and the Preſident, as recited in their minutes of the 10th inſtant, on the ſubject of ſuffering the fort and country of Tanjore to fall into the hands of the Nabob, in caſe they ſhould be reduced, together with the reaſons which induced the Committee to think it expedient to comply with the Nabob's requiſition in this inſtance; and with which the Board acquieſce.

ENCLOSURE, No. II.

GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Chriſtian Faith, Duke of Brunſwick and Lunenburgh, Arch-Treaſurer and Prince Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, and Sovereign of the Seas, &c.

To Nabob Waulaujah, Ummeer Ul Hind, Omdet Ul Mulk, Serajah Dowlah, Anver Ul Dee Khan Behauder, Munſoor Jung, Sepoy Sardar, Nabob of Arcot and the Carnatic.

We received with pleaſure your letter, in which you expreſs to us your gratitude for the additional naval force which we have ſent for your ſecurity, as well as that of our Eaſt-India Company, and your confidence that we ſhall tread in the ſteps of our royal Grandfather, by granting our protection to you and your family. We have given our Commander in Chief and Plenipotentiary, Sir Robert Harland, our inſtructions for that purpoſe, and we flatter ourſelves that he will reconcile the differences which have ariſen between you and the Company's ſervants againſt your mutual intereſt. It gave us ſatisfaction to hear that the Governor and Council of Madraſs had ſent the Company's troops with your's to reduce your tributary, the Rajah of Tanjore, to obedience, in which we hope, by the bleſſing of God, they will be ſucceſsful; and ſo we bid you farewell, wiſhing health and proſperity to you and your family. Given at our Court at St. James's, the ſeventh day

This Letter was in reply to one the Nabob wrote his Majeſty by Sir John Lindſay, received by Sir Robert Harland, at Bombay, by the Prudent Ship of War, and delivered to the Nabob after his return here, 30th April, 1773.

day of April, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-two, in the twelfth year of our reign.

Copy of it was ſhewn to the Preſident the night before he preſented it by Sir Robert Harland. The troops of this garriſon aſſiſted on the occaſion, as the Military Conſultation of that day ſhews.

Your affectionate Friend,

GEORGE R.

ENCLOSURE, No. III.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Moſtyn, *the Company's Reſident at Poonah, dated 14th May, 1773.*

I had the honour of your commands of the 3d ultimo the 27th following; and this is purpoſely to adviſe you, that ſome days ago, a Goſamie, by name Mohimgeer (who has been here ſome time) applied to this Durbar, as Vackeel from the king of Tanjore, for leave to raiſe ten thouſand horſe for the ſervice of his maſter, and which he made no ſecret were to be employed againſt Mahomed Ally Cawn. He at firſt, by means of preſents to ſome of the miniſters, had a promiſe of leave, of which I adviſed my ſuperiors at Bombay, under date the 6th; but ſince the Dewan has ſtarted objections, and I believe he will not ſucceed; though was he to obtain permiſſion, he would find it very difficult to raiſe men, as the Durbar are enliſting people as faſt as poſſible for themſelves. Should he hereafter procure leave, and any probability of his getting the troops, I will not fail to adviſe your Honour, &c.

Extract of Letter from the Select Committee at Fort St. George, dated 31ſt January, 1770.

Par. 4. The ſtipulative tribute paid by Tanjore to the Carnatic, in peace as well as in war, ſhould we think be conſidered only as an acknowledgement of ſuperiority. What quota of troops or treaſure ſhould be furniſhed in time of war we cannot aſcertain either by uſage or compact. It appears therefore to us to have been arbitrary; that is to ſay, the Government of the Carnatic hath exacted whatever it hath had power to compel; and Tanjore hath refuſed ſuccours or money as far as the Government thought it had power to ſupport ſuch refuſal. And this is by no means peculiar to theſe TWO STATES.—The ſame principle prevails invariably throughout Indoſtan.—Upon this principle, which is *wholly that of power*, it is certainly contrary

contrary to found policy for the Carnatic to fuffer the exiftence of fuch a STATE; and there can be no doubt but that the RULERS of the Carnatic would have long ago reduced Tanjore to the fame terms as other dependant rajahfhips, had not Tanjore been fufficiently powerful in itfelf, or by connexion, to oppofe fuch attempts effectually. Upon this reafoning therefore, it appears to us, that if the Nabob of the Carnatic poffeffed the whole power of the Carnatic, it would be good policy in him, and confiftent with the principles of the Indoftan governments, to reduce Tanjore to the fame terms of obedience and control that other Rajahs have been reduced to. And if the Company poffeffed the whole power of the Carnatic, it would be equally good policy in the Company to do fo. But it is a great queftion with us, whether it would be good policy in the Company to *fuffer* the Nabob of the Carnatic to reduce Tanjore, if he were powerful enough of himfelf to do fo; and it is another queftion with us, upon the prefent divided fyftem of power in the Carnatic, if it would be good policy in the Company to reduce Tanjore, and place it under the management and control of the Nabob. *We incline to the opinion that it would not*; but that whilft the prefent fyftem, or want of fyftem, remains between the Company and the Carnatic, if the reduction of Tanjore fhould be refolved on, it would be more advifeable for the Company to retain it in their own poffeffion, or (referving the fovereignty) place in the management of it either the prefent Rajah or any other, *fubject to fuch limitations and conditions as might make him ufeful, but put it out of his power to be dangerous.* The impropriety and inconvenience of fuch a STATE, fubfifting in the heart of the province, is evident from the Rajah's conduct in the late war with Hyder Ally. The junction of his troops, particularly his cavalry, to our army, might have greatly contributed to the prevention of thofe ravages which the Carnatic fuftained, but that would have expofed the Tanjore country to the refentment of the common enemy; and the Rajah thought he faw his particular intereft in purchafing a peace for his own country: this conduct in the Rajah might now furnifh us with a juft plea for calling him to account; but when your Honours are informed of all our reafons for declining fuch an attempt at this time, we flatter ourfelves that our conduct will meet with your approbation.

Extract of Select Letter from Fort St. George, 28th February, 1772.

With refpect to the guarantee of the treaty of 1762 between the Nabob and the Rajah, we are under fome doubt whether, according to the law and ufage of nations, it is abolifhed or ftill in force. The Rajah, upon a plea of injuftice on the part of the Nabob, declined to comply with the terms of the treaty, by punctually paying the peifhcufh; as guarantees we interpofed, and marched a force to compel him; open war enfued; the Rajah in the end

 fubmits,

submits, pays the peishcush, with a further sum, as an indemnification for the charges of the war; a new treaty passes between the Nabob and him, in which we have no part, and in which not a word is mentioned of the treaty of 1762, nor a word in respect to the payment of the peishcush in future, nor of its remission; the Question is, whether that treaty and guarantee are, or are not virtually restored. We have carefully avoided any hint to the Nabob on this subject, either for or against the Question; and the Nabob is equally reserved. How long it may be possible to preserve this silence will depend on circumstances; for whenever a case may happen that shall require a decisive measure, our conduct in the one case or the other would be very different; we therefore hope your Honours will see the necessity of tracing a strong line for the guidance of your government in this respect. If you resume the right, or rather acknowledge the Company still bound by their guarantee of 1762, it will be absolutely necessary, that you empower your government confidentially to carry it effectually into execution, by exerting the right, and interposing power, if necessary, to prevent injustice to the Rajah. Had your government here stood in such a degree of confidence with their constituents, as that they might have entertained a reasonable hope of support and justification in an impartial and spirited conduct, the part they should have taken ought no doubt to have been this; upon the Rajah's complaint, that he was entitled to an indemnification for the expences he sustained in the assistance given to the Nabob in the late war,† and that the Marawar and Nalcooty Polygars with-held from him his just rights; on the other hand the Nabob complaining that the Rajah with-held the peishcush unjustly, had no right to the indemnification he demanded, nor any just claim on Marawar and Nalcooty; this Government, as guarantees, ought to have marched a force to maintain peace between the complaining parties, to have required deputies from both, to state the demands of each respectively, and, upon a fair discussion, to have decided between them, and to have enforced the decision, whether in favour of the Nabob or in favour of the Rajah; but your Government here did not dare to act such a part. It was plain from your orders to this Committee, under date the 17th March, 1769, as well as subsequent orders, that you thought the Rajah stood in a degree of favour with this Government, which you did not approve; and that you adopted all the Nabob's ideas of levying crores, as an equitable pretension, because other Soubahs had done so. At the same time the Minister of the Crown, ranging himself on the side of the Nabob, received all his complaints against the Rajah as gospel, attacked us openly, but with flagrant injustice, and accused us of with-holding that assistance from the Nabob which our trust required. The designs of the Ministry are plain, and we know the extent of ministerial power; we should otherwise have thought a refutation needless, and have consigned such

partial

† War with Hyder Ally.

partial zeal to contempt and oblivion. The Rajah, ſo early as September 1770, repreſented to the Preſident his apprehenſions of the Nabob's deſigns and repreſentations to the King's Miniſter, but finding no tendency to redreſs, and ſeeing the weakneſs of this Government, and its inability to protect him, too haſtily and indiſcretely ſtood forth in open oppoſition; moſt probably expecting ſupport either from the French or the Marattas. The conteſt hath ended not diſhonourably to the Company's arms; but we hope your Honours will not on that ground be too confident of future ſucceſs, even at the hazard of being thought timid. A ſteady regard for the public welfare obliges us to ſay, we are amazed that we have got thus far ſo well; and if your Honours will attentively conſider every embarraſſment in which we have been entangled by the Nabob, his chicanery in reſpect to money and proviſions, his views to compel us into a Maratta alliance, his wiſhes to poſſeſs Tanjore, his fears of the Company if it were ſubdued, his hope of ſupport againſt the Company from the Crown, and his jealouſy of the future effects even of that ſupport, we think your Honours will ſee cauſe to rejoice, that we are in no worſe ſtate at preſent. Should your Honours think it beſt to revive the guarantee, and take it upon you, we are perſuaded the Nabob will oppoſe it by every means in his power, and it will certainly be the cauſe of a freſh quarrel with him; but ſhould that be got over, and the guarantee be acknowledged, and at the ſame time ſhould your Government, from whatever cauſe, not to be relieved from its preſent weakneſs in reſpect to the Nabob, his deſigns againſt Tanjore, or ſome other indirect purpoſe, may again drag you into hoſtility. If you do not reſume the guarantee, but leave the Rajah wholly at the mercy of the Nabob, we do not heſitate to declare it as our opinion, that his apprehenſions of the Nabob are ſo great, that whenever we ſhall be involved in trouble, he will become dangerous, and take part againſt us, to ſave himſelf from impending ruin, ſhould he ſee a probability of ſucceſs. Our concluſion is, that one of theſe deciſive meaſures ſhould be adopted with firmneſs and vigour; either to take Tanjore openly and avowedly under your protection, and give him proofs of your impartial juſtice, which we think, even now, notwithſtanding what has paſſed, will bind him firmly to your intereſt, or to conquer and ſubdue him totally; but in the latter caſe, the conſequent arrangements will be matter of the moſt ſerious conſideration. What we ſaid on this ſubject, by the Britannia, contains our ſenſe; and ſince the year 1768 ſuch lights have been thrown on the Nabob's character and conduct, as may amply ſuffice to enable your Honours to determine with juſtice and propriety; we therefore only add, that every day convinces us we have not been miſtaken, and we confirm every word we have wrote.

SOC: REG: ASIATICA

At a COURT of DIRECTORS,

Held the 4th of April, 1777,

Resolved unanimously,

That the Orders for removing Mr. Wynch in consequence of the Tanjore War, the Commissions to the Right Hon. Lord Pigot as President and Governor, and as Commander in Chief of Fort St George, and the Orders given to his Lordship and his Council; also the Company's Commission to Sir Robert Fletcher as Commander of the Company's Troops on the Coast of Coromandel, and the Consultations and other Records on Political Subjects from the Arrival of Lord Pigot to those last received from that Presidency, be forthwith printed for the Use of the Proprietors.

Extract of the General Letter to Fort St. George, dated 12th April, 1775.

26. AS our system on the Coast may be much affected by the part you have taken in the reduction of Tanjore, we have thought proper to examine the subject fully, and we now proceed to give our sentiments respecting the above extraordinary transaction.

27. We have been uniform in our orders and instructions, prohibiting our servants from extending the possessions of the Company or of the Nabob, and testified our displeasure against a late Governor and Council for disregarding those orders. We have also particularly directed, as guarantees of the treaty of 1762, that no opportunity should be lost of raising in the King of Tanjore ideas of firm dependence on our friendship; and we concur in the opinion of our Governor and Council, that it could not be good policy in the Company to reduce Tanjore, and to place it under the management and controul of the Nabob; more especially as they on the spot were of opinion, that on account of oppressions exercised by the Nabob in his

Letter to 24th Dec. 1765, par. 4. and 4th March, 1767, par. 12. Sel. letter, from 31st Jan. 1770, par. 4.

own

Sel. letter, from 6th April, 1770, par. 2, 3, and 4. own dominions, and of his inveterate hatred to the King of Tanjore, the Tanjoreans would ſubmit to any power whatever rather than to the Nabob; and, under the above conſiderations, we confeſs ourſelves at a loſs for words to expreſs our concern, on finding that you have nevertheleſs aſſiſted the Nabob in dethroning the King of Tanjore, and in taking poſſeſſion of his dominions.

28. As the fall of Tanjore is an event which may be attended with the moſt ſerious conſequences, we ſhall in this place conſider your motives to the firſt expedition, your advices relative thereto, the conditions of the treaty of 1771, the propriety of breaking that treaty, and the inconveniences occaſioned to the Company by your departure from the letter and ſpirit of our repeated orders and inſtructions.

29. Although the treaty of 1769 includes the Rajah of Tanjore, and ſhelters him from the Nabob's reſentment on account of his conduct during the war with Hyder Ally, we do not conſider the general words of that treaty as ſufficient to releaſe the Rajah from the treaty of 1762, by which he became tributary to the Nabob; and therefore the non-payment of his tribute ſeems a ſufficient reaſon for calling him to account.

Co. Cor. No. 131. 30. We find by a letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, received the 14th October, 1762, that he requeſts the Polligars ſhould not be permitted to diſpute his preſent poſſeſſions; to which an anſwer was returned, that the Polligars ſhould not be aſſiſted by the Nabob or the Company, if the Rajah on his part did not moleſt them. How far the Marawar and Nalcooty men were intended to be included in the general term of Polligars does not appear to us; but ſuppoſing them to have been ſo included, the Rajah's conduct in recurring to arms againſt them, muſt have rendered him reprehenſible on their account; and therefore we are of opinion, on that ground alſo, you may have had a right to interfere in the diſputes which have happened between him and the Nabob of the Carnatic.

No. 134.

31. But

31. But admitting the neceſſity of your interfering between the Nabob and the King of Tanjore, we can by no means allow that you were warranted in recurring to arms, ſo long as the King of Tanjore's Vackeel declared himſelf ready and willing to ſettle affairs with the Nabob under the mediation and guarantee of the Engliſh; and much leſs can we juſtify your conduct in agreeing, on any account or pretence, or under any circumſtances, that the Nabob ſhould be put in poſſeſſion of that kingdom. As guarantees of the treaty of 1762 you were obliged to interpoſe between the parties, but had no right to extend your views beyond the accompliſhment of the ſtipulations of that treaty.

32. And here we are concerned to remark, that you ſeem not only to have proceeded improperly in your engagements with the Nabob reſpecting the King of Tanjore, but alſo to have been diſingenuous in your advices to us upon that important ſubject, as appears by the following ſtate of facts:

33. After ſeveral negotiations and conferences with the Nabob, you inform us in your ſelect letter, dated the 20th of July, 1771, Par. 9.
" That being yourſelves in a ſtate of uncertainty, you were obliged to " leave us in doubt what meaſures would be purſued in reſpect to " Tanjore." In that letter you refer us for particular information to the Select Committee's proceedings of the 9th and 11th July, 1771. Folio 159.
In the former we find the Committee reſolve to repreſent to the Nabob, *with all frankneſs and candour, that in caſe the King of Tanjore ſhould refuſe to pay an adequate ſum of money*, and the conqueſt of the country be thereupon judged neceſſary, any arrangements reſpecting ſuch conqueſt muſt be regarded as merely temporary, until the Company's pleaſure ſhould be known, whoſe orders thereon, you obſerve to him, muſt be implicitly obeyed by their ſervants.

34. The propoſed arrangements were to the following effect, viz.

That all money due to the Company for currrent charges, including thoſe of the expedition (except the balance of the Myſorean war) be diſcharged from the money to be obtained from the Rajah of Tanjore; and that the remainder be appropriated towards paying the private creditors.

35. That as the Company wiſh not to ſubvert the eſtabliſhed government of any power with whom they have political connexion, in caſe the Rajah be ſubdued, it were better to reſtore him, or to place ſome more fit perſon of his family in the government of Tanjore, upon his paying ſuch peſhcuſh to the Circar as might be proper, aſſigning a revenue for payment of charges of the expedition, and for the maintenance of a garriſon to be kept in the town on the part of the Company, and alſo for a ſufficient force to protect the country; or, if the above be not agreeable to the Nabob, that the revenues ſhould then be put under his direction; but that the fort ſhould remain in our hands, and that both ſhould be conſidered as depoſits till the Company's pleaſure ſhould be known; the revenue ſubject, however, to the purpoſes aforeſaid.

Sel. letter from 20 July 1771. Par. 4 to 9. Letter to 25 March 1772. Par. 61.

36. The above advices were communicated to us by the ſhip Duke of Portland and your conduct on the occaſion received, as it juſtly merited, our entire approbation. That ſhip failed from Fort St. George the 23d of July, 1771; but we find, that the very next day, the Nabob being deſirous of accommodating matters with the King of Tanjore, the *majority* of the Select Committee reſolved, that ſuch negotiations ſhould not be conducted by our repreſentatives, as guarantees of the treaty of 1762, but be left entirely to the Nabob: and we alſo find, that though you wrote to us three days afterwards overland, you never ſuggeſted the leaſt hint of having departed from your former opinion.

37. The

37. The Committee were not unanimous in the above resolutions; the persons who composed it were Messieurs Dupré, Hastings, and Ardley; but we are deprived of the pleasure of knowing which of our servants was of a different opinion from the majority, as no dissent was entered on the occasion.

38. In September 1771 you inform the Nabob, that as you were acting in support of his government, and partly as guarantees of the treaty of 1762, whatever should be taken from the King of Tanjore, whether forts, countries, money, effects, or military stores, all should be left at his disposal, together with the Rajah, his family, and dependants, if they should fall into your hands. The 9th of October following you wrote to us by the Stag frigate, but were entirely silent respecting the above stipulations. And as you thought proper to defer sending us your proceedings by that conveyance, we received a copy of the treaty of 1771 before we were apprized of the unwarrantable engagements entered into with the Nabob.

Sel. Letter from 9 Oct. 1771, Par. 2.

39. As we had a pleasure in observing that the Nabob had recovered all his peshcush, obtained indemnification for the charges of the war, gained considerable presents for his children, and other advantages; so had we also the satisfaction to find, that affairs were compromised by the contending parties without dispossessing the King of Tanjore of his dominions.

N. B. Treaty received the 16 July 1772, per Asia. Co. Cor. received per L. North the 17 Sept. 1772.

40. We pass over the particulars of the siege, and also forbear at this time to animadvert at large upon many irregularities in your intermediate proceedings, as they appear to us rather subordinate considerations.

41. The orders given by you to General Smith, your extraordinary explanation of those orders, the independent power lodged in the Nabob's son, and the chagrin discovered by you, when you found the

General had obeyed your orders, and the young Nabob exercifed the authority with which he was invefted, are great improprieties, and very blameable; but we are conftrained to obferve, that irregularity makes but a fmall part of your mifconduct, when compared with tranfactions of greater moment.

42. In regard to the before-mentioned extraordinary ftipulations with the Nabob, we have already remarked, that as the guarantee of the treaty of 1762 obliged you to compel payment of the pefhcufh, if defired by the Nabob, fo did it alfo oblige you to prevent him from exacting new conditions, not provided for by that treaty. Indeed we do not find that the treaty of 1771 was materially different from that of 1762, except in the additional claufe to furnifh troops to the Nabob, which was not in the former treaty, and in the ceffion of certain diftricts, which were then forced from the King of Tanjore; but we muft obferve, that the Nabob's averfion to your appearing in the propofed negotiation in 1771, ought not to have been confidered as a fufficient reafon for rejecting the Rajah's application, when he offered to fettle with the Nabob by means of your mediation. And under the above circumftances, every principle of juftice, policy, and humanity, forbad your engaging to facrifice him to the Nabob's refentment.

43. In 1771 you feemed fufficiently aware of the impropriety of increafing the Nabob's power; but deeming it an act of political neceffity, you refolved upon the meafure; intimating, however, that it would be eafy to control it afterwards, if found neceffary; but you need not be told by us, that it was much more eafy to prevent it, than it can be to control an improper degree of power in the hands of the Nabob of the Carnatic.

44. But

44. But you further inform us, " That legal orders to the Britiſh " delegates of national power may model that of the Nabob, and " reſtrain it within ſuch bounds as ſhall be thought proper."

45. We are not at all diſpoſed to examine the ideas affixed by you to theſe unuſual expreſſions. The ſubject is too ſerious to be thus treated. Your unneceſſary experiment has been carried into execution. It appears to us very dangerous, the embarraſſment occaſioned thereby almoſt inſurmountable, and that air of indifference with which you delivered your ſentiments on the occaſion extremely unſeaſonable.

46. We muſt confeſs, that no eaſy means occur to us, whereby the Nabob's newly-acquired power may be controlled; and although the meaſure may be abſolutely neceſſary, we have no aſſurance that the remedy will not be attended with diſagreeable conſequences.

47. The above being our ſentiments reſpecting your conduct during the firſt expedition, we proceed to examine into the propriety of your behaviour relative to the ſecond expedition, undertaken in 1773.

48. In your ſelect letter, dated the 28th February, 1772, you tell us " Tanjore had been humbled," and we muſt declare this was all that ought to have been deſired. You likewiſe give us your opinion, that notwithſtanding what had paſſed, " if we would give the King " of Tanjore proofs of our impartial juſtice, it would bind him firmly " to our intereſt;" but you nevertheleſs, ſo far as in you lies, put it out of our power to render him that juſtice, before you become acquainted with our ſentiments on the ſubject.

49. You further declare, that you ſee no reaſon to change the ſentiments communicated to us in your letter of the 31ſt of January, 1770, reſpecting

respecting the impropriety of reducing Tanjore, and of placing it under the management and control of the Nabob; and we again concur in opinion with you on that subject.

50. You confessed your doubts whether the treaty of 1762 be abolished or still in force, because a subsequent treaty had been concluded, in which you took no part, *and therefore hoped we should see the necessity of tracing a strong line for your future guidance.*

51. We received your letter the 10th September, 1772, and our answer was transmitted by the Harcourt, the 7th of April, 1773; in which we informed you, that we deemed those objects of too much importance to admit of an hasty determination. You were however of a different opinion; for without waiting the arrival of our instructions, you proceed to reconsider the treaty of 1762, and positively declare it annulled, though no one circumstance had happened to affect it since your last advices. You thereupon determined to renew your attack upon Tanjore, and entered into fresh engagements with the Nabob, stipulating as before, that if the King of Tanjore should be taken, you would leave him and his family at the Nabob's disposal; and as our troops were then returned from an expedition against the Marawar and Nalcooty Poligars, you forthwith order them to proceed against Tanjore.

52. It is worthy of notice, that the reasons given by the Nabob for subduing those Poligars were, because they had neither sent a man, nor supplied a grain of provisions for his army during the operations against Tanjore. And having, by your assistance, cut off those unfortunate people, he immediately urges, as one motive for reducing Tanjore, that the Tanjorean King had not contributed towards carrying on the war against the Poligars. Other reasons were indeed adduced, namely, that he had mortgaged some of his districts to the Dutch and Danes; that he owed him money; and that

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if the present opportunity should be lost, the French or the Marattas would take Tanjore, and disturb the peace of the Carnatic; but we must confess we are shocked to find, that our troops have been employed on such services, and on pretences so frivolous as those abovementioned.

53. The Nabob says the King of Tanjore owes him money, and has not fulfilled the treaty of 1771; supposing it true, you had just declared you were not guarantees of that treaty, you had therefore no pretence on that account to interfere. But we find that the Nabob's assertion respecting money was contradicted by the King of Tanjore, who declared he had sent soucar bills to the Nabob for payment, even before the money was due, and pledged lands to Mr. Benfield for the whole amount of the peshcush; and though Mr. Benfield, as a servant of the Company, very properly declined transacting this business, his letter on the subject allows that bills were actually sent by the King of Tanjore on the occasion, which manifested his desire at least to satisfy the Nabob. These were circumstances easy to be proved; but it does not appear that you paid the least regard to the Tanjorean King's representation, or took any measures to ascertain the truth of the Nabob's declarations.

54. As to any danger which might be apprehended from the King of Tanjore's negotiation with the French or Marattas, there was certainly more reason to expect it before the first expedition, whilst his treasury was full, than afterwards, when it had just been exhausted by the Nabob. There are no circumstances before us, which convince us, that the least inconvenience was likely to have happened by such negotiations; and as to your declaration, that the reduction of Tanjore was a measure of self-defence, it appears to us so very inconsistent, that we are sorry to find you capable of making the assertion. We are of so different an opinion, that we deem the possessions of the Company endangered by the success of that very measure; and do

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not hesitate to declare, that it has rendered our self-defence on the Coast of Coromandel an object of very serious consideration.

55. Upon the most deliberate review of your proceedings, and of the various circumstances therewith connected, we are confirmed in our opinion, that as the King of Tanjore was in arrear to the Nabob in 1771, you were then authorized in calling him to account; but the measures taken for that purpose, and your stipulations with the Nabob on the occasion, were altogether improper, and utterly unwarrantable; and although the evils which might have been immediately consequent thereon were in some degree prevented, or delayed at least, by the peace granted to the King of Tanjore; yet we find, by the dissatisfaction you expressed at that event having happened, that the entire reduction of Tanjore was at that time ardently desired by you, and the short suspension of the King of Tanjore's unhappy fate in no respect owing to your moderation.

56. We cannot find that in 1773 you were in possession of any fact whatever, which could render it necessary to break the peace of 1771; we therefore declare the last expedition unjustifiable, and your conduct therein wholly inexcusable.

See sel. let. to 17 March, 1769. Par. 1.

57. When we established a Select Committee in March, 1769, it was professedly with a view to the confining of our influence and possessions, and to retreating back within those limits, which our Governor and Council had exceeded, by attempting to extend the possessions of the Nabob of the Carnatic.

58. We likewise enjoined you to represent to the Nabob the folly of relying on his own troops for the defence of the Carnatic, and expressed our anxiety at seeing a system adopted so repugnant to our views, as was that of supporting him in the Mysorean country; and so great was our resentment against our President and Council, that

Sep. letter to 17 March, 1769. Par. 41.

that we not only ordered Mr. Bourchier to quit the government, but ſeverely reprimanded the Members of our Council for the part they had taken in the above tranſactions.

59. Theſe were the ſentiments we entertained of the conduct of our late ſervants, and fully before you, when you ventured to adopt meaſures of the ſame dangerous nature and tendency with thoſe which occaſioned the cenſures above-mentioned; and therefore, as our orders and inſtructions have been diſregarded by you, and as examples made of former offenders have been inſufficient to reſtrain you from treading in their ſteps, we have determined to remove Alexander Wynch Eſquire from being Preſident of our Council, and hereby direct, that he forthwith reſign the government to the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, upon the arrival of his Lordſhip at your preſidency.

60. And as the concurrence of the members of our Council in the breach of our orders renders them very undeſerving of our favour, we ſhould have proceeded to the like extremities with them, had we not been willing to hope, that their future conduct may in ſome degree atone for paſt offences. On this ground alone we are induced to continue them in our ſervice; but we nevertheleſs hereby ſeverely reprimand them, and alſo declare, that unleſs their zeal for our intereſt ſhall manifeſt a proper ſenſe of our lenity, they will certainly experience more rigorous marks of our reſentment.

61. Having thus removed Mr. Wynch from being Preſident of our Council, it is our pleaſure, and we hereby direct, that our Governor and Council at Fort St. George do conſiſt of the following Perſons, viz.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor.
Mr. George Stratton, ſecond.

General Joſeph Smith, or the Commander in Chief of our troops
for the time being, third.
Mr. George Dawſon, fourth.
Mr. Henry Brooke, fifth.
Mr. John Whitehill, ſixth.
Mr. Claud Ruſſell, ſeventh.
Mr. Charles Smith, eighth.
Mr. Alexander Dalrymple, ninth.
Mr. Samuel Johnſon, tenth.
Mr. Charles Floyer, eleventh.
Mr. John Maxwell Stone, twelfth.
Mr. Archdale Palmer, thirteenth.
Mr. James Hay, fourteenth.
Mr. Edward Stracey, fifteenth.
Mr. Edward Cotsford, ſixteenth.
Mr. Richard Latham, ſeventeenth.
Mr. Francis Jourdan, eighteenth.
Mr. George Mackay, nineteenth and laſt of Council, and not
to riſe to any higher ſtation therein.

62. By the ſhip Grenville we tranſmit a commiſſion under the Company's ſeal, conſtituting the above-mentioned gentlemen our Governor and Council, and an atteſted copy thereof will be forwarded by the firſt ſhip of next ſeaſon bound directly to Fort St. George.

63. Although, from variety of circumſtances, it has happened that our Council at Fort St. George have never been reduced to the number of twelve, according to our direction in the year 1769; nevertheleſs it is our poſitive order, that no future vacancies therein be filled up by you, even proviſionally, until the Council ſhall be reduced to the ſaid number of twelve; and after ſuch reduction, you are then to fill up vacancies from the next of our civil ſervants, provided there ſhall be no material objections with reſpect to abilities,

lities, character or fortune, as noticed in our general letter of the 17th March, 1769. Par. 46.

64. Notwithstanding we have thought proper to remove Alexander Wynch Esquire from being President of our Council and Governor of Fort St. George, it is not our intention that Mr. Wynch shall be obliged to leave India immediately, if he shall think proper to continue there to settle his private affairs; and it is our pleasure, that during his continuance at Fort St. George, or his stay at any other of our settlements in his way home, he be treated with the respect due to the station he has held in our service.

London,
12th April, 1775.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Edward Wheeler
John Harrison
John Woodhouse
Joseph Sparkes
Frederick Pigou
William James
Henry Savage
T. B. Rous
Henry Fletcher
Daniel Wier
Richard Hall
Samuel Peach
W. G. Freeman
Charles Boddam
James Moffatt
John Smith
Peter Lascelles
George Tatem.

he the ſaid George Lord Pigot, our Preſident and Governor and Council aforeſaid, ſhall from time to time receive under the hands of thirteen or more of the Court of Directors of the ſaid United Company for the time being. And we the ſaid United Company do hereby order and require all our factors, ſervants, officers and ſoldiers, within the limits of the ſaid Preſidency, and all the people and inhabitants of our ſaid Fort St. George and City of Madras-patnam, or any other our forts, places or colonies, within the ſaid Preſidency, to conform, ſubmit, and yield due obedience unto the ſaid George Lord Pigot, our Preſident and Governor and his Council accordingly: And we do hereby revoke, repeal, annul, and make void every former commiſſion or commiſſions given and granted by us, whereby any other perſon or perſons was and were conſtituted and ordained Preſident and Governor, and any other perſons therein named were conſtituted and ordained to be of the Council at Fort St. George aforeſaid. In witneſs whereof, we the ſaid United Company have cauſed our common ſeal to be affixed to theſe preſents the eleventh day of April, in the fifteenth year of the reign of his Moſt Excellent Majeſty George the Third, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and ſo forth, and in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-five.

Signed by order of the Court of Directors of the ſaid United Company.

P. MICHELL, Secretary.

The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies,

To George Lord Pigot, Baron Pigot of Patshul, in the kingdom of Ireland, Governor of the Presidency of Fort St. George.

WE the said United Company, reposing especial trust and confidence in you, George Lord Pigot, do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be our Governor and Commander in Chief of our fort and garrison of Fort St. George and town of Madras-patnam, and of all the forces which now are, or hereafter shall be employed for the service of the said United Company within the said fort, garrison, and town; and you are, to the utmost of your skill and power, to do and perform all such offices and services as appertain to the post of Governor and Commander in Chief as aforesaid, and to continue in the exercise of the same during our pleasure, subject nevertheless to all such rules, orders and instructions, as have heretofore been given to the President and Council of Fort St. George, aforesaid, and are now in force, and also such others as you shall at any time hereafter receive in writing from the Court of Directors of the said United Company, or under the hands of thirteen or more of them; and we do hereby strictly require, charge, and command all commission-officers, non-commission officers, soldiers and others, belonging to our military forces, and all the people and inhabitants employed or residing in our said fort, garrison, and town, to yield you, as Governor and Commander in Chief, as aforesaid, due obedience accordingly. Given under our common seal this fourth day of April, in the fifteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.

(L. S.)

By order of the Court of Directors of the said United Company,

P. MICHELL, Secretary.

Alexander

Alexander Wynch, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief of the fort and garrison of Fort St. George and town of Madras-patnam, and of all the forces which are or ſhall be employed for the ſervice of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies in the ſaid fort, garriſon, and town, and Preſident of the Council of Fort St. George, and the reſt of the Council thereof,

To Sir Robert Fletcher, greeting.

WE, repoſing eſpecial truſt and confidence in you, Sir Robert Fletcher, do, by theſe preſents, conſtitute and appoint you to be Brigadier-General and Commander in Chief of the forces of the ſaid United Company on the Coaſt of Coromandel; and you are, to the utmoſt of your ſkill and power, to do and perform all ſuch offices and ſervices as appertain to the poſt of Commander in Chief of the forces on the Coaſt of Coromandel, ſubject however to all ſuch rules, orders and inſtructions, as you ſhall at any time receive from the Court of Directors of the ſaid United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies in writing, or under the hands of thirteen or more of them, or from the Governor and Council of Fort St. George, or from Lieutenant-General John Clavering, Commander in Chief of all the United Company's forces in the Eaſt-Indies, or the Commander in Chief of all their forces in the Eaſt-Indies for the time being, when he ſhall be at the Preſidency of Fort St. George, according to the rules and diſcipline of war, in purſuance of the truſt hereby repoſed in you; and we do hereby ſtrictly require, charge and command all commiſſion-officers, non-commiſſion officers and ſoldiers, and others, belonging to the military forces of the ſaid United Company on the Coaſt of Coromandel before-mentioned, to yield you as their Commander due obedience accordingly. Given under our hands, and the ſeal of the ſaid United Company, in Fort St. George, this ſixteenth day of October, in the ſixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign

Sovereign Lord, George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and ſo forth, and in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-five.

A[R] WYNCH, &c. Council.

Entered in the Secretary's Office by order of the Preſident and Council. }

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

ORDERS OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE KING OF TANJORE.

Our Preſident and Council at Fort St. George.

1. In order to remedy ſo far as may be the inconveniences occaſioned by the miſconduct of our late Preſident and Council, we have thought proper to conſtitute, and by our Commiſſion under our Seal, dated the 11th inſtant, have conſtituted and appointed you to be our Governor and Council of Fort St. George, for governing and managing all the Company's affairs on the Coaſts of Coromandel and Orixa, and all our forts, factories, and ſettlements thereunto belonging; ſubject however to the limitations and reſtrictions contained in a late Act of Parliament, intituled, "An Act for eſtabliſhing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, as well in India as in Europe."

2. By our letter to our Preſident and Council of this date, (copy whereof is herewith tranſmitted) you will be more particularly informed of the tranſactions which have occaſioned the removal of our ſaid Preſident, and the reprehenſion of the Members of our Council; we ſhall not in this place recapitulate thoſe particulars, but content ourſelves with obſerving, that it behoves you to avoid all meaſures of a like tendency with thoſe which have thus involved our ſervants in the conſequences of our diſpleaſure.

3. In

3. In the execution of the trust now reposed in you several important objects claim your immediate and most serious consideration; we shall point out what we wish to have accomplished, and suggest such means as appear to us most likely to be effectual for obtaining the ends proposed; but we are convinced that success must in a great measure depend upon the wisdom of your councils, the integrity and firmness of your conduct, and in no small degree upon the seasonable exertion of those peculiar abilities, for which your Right Honourable President is so justly and eminently distinguished.

4. As the solemn promise made by our Governor and Council, at the request of the Nabob of the Carnatic and the King of Tanjore, to guaranty the treaty of 1762, has been fully approved by the Court of Directors; we cannot but consider the public faith of the Company as forfeited, and the honour of the British nation deeply affected, by the measures taken for dethroning that unhappy Prince, whose kingdom has been wrested from him by our servants, and put under the government of Mahmud Ally Khan, in direct violation of that treaty, and contrary to our repeated orders and instructions, which have uniformly and expressly prohibited them from attempting to enlarge our own or the Nabob's dominions; and also in opposition to the letter and spirit of the Nabob's public declaration to the King of Tanjore's Vackeel, wherein he affirms, that it was not his intention to take the fort and country of Tanjore to himself, but to secure them for the benefit of the King of Tanjore's family, and to place a proper person of his kindred on the throne.

5. And having resolved to contribute so far as in us lies towards the restoration of the King of Tanjore, which by every tie of honor we conceive ourselves bound to do, we hereby direct, that you take the most effectual measures without loss of time for securing the person of the King of Tanjore, and that you forthwith appoint him a proper guard for his protection, and also for the protection of his family; and inform him, that we have determined to replace him upon the throne of his ancestors,

anceſtors, upon certain terms and conditions to be agreed upon for the mutual benefit of himſelf and the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company, without infringing the rights of Mahmud Ally Khan, Nabob of the Carnatic.

6. As our faith ſtands pledged by the treaty of 1762 to obtain payment of the King of Tanjore's tribute to the ſaid Nabob of the Carnatic; as it is our intereſt and ſincere deſire to maintain the public tranquillity; and as we find to our great concern, that other Europeans have obtained undue influence in Tanjore, which, if permitted and encouraged, may operate unfavourably for the Company, render it difficult to perform the part of guarantee to the ſaid treaty, and even tend to endanger the peace of the country; we therefore direct, that you declare to the King of Tanjore, that as we have no ſecurity for the performance of any engagements which may be entered into by him, and as in times paſt the payment of his tribute has been evaded or delayed, and ſeveral of his diſtricts mortgaged to Europeans, contrary to the intereſt of the Company, we ſhall inſiſt upon his admitting a garriſon of our troops into the fort of Tanjore, not only to enſure the regular payment of the Nabob's juſt demand in future, but alſo to enable us effectually to watch the motions and to counteract the views of any European or country power, who may attempt to form connexions or make eſtabliſhments in Tanjore to our prejudice; and you are likewiſe to inſiſt upon having an aſſignment of revenues made to the Company ſufficient for the maintenance of the ſaid troops, and for providing military ſtores neceſſary for the defence of the garriſon.

7. You are however, in our name, to aſſure the King of Tanjore, that no diminution of his authority over his ſubjects is intended by us, and that we will ſeverely puniſh every military officer, or Company's ſervant, who ſhall in any reſpect interfere in the affairs of his government; and you are to take eſpecial care that this article be punctually fulfilled on the part of the Company.

8. You are alſo to aſſure the King of Tanjore, that particular accounts of the expenſe of the garriſon ſhall be laid before him every three months, or ſo often as he ſhall require it; that no extravagance ſhall be permitted, nor any improper charge be allowed in ſuch accounts; and that if the annual amount thereof ſhall at any time be leſs than the revenues aſſigned to the Company, the ſurplus of the ſaid revenues ſhall be faithfully returned to him; but if the expenſe of the garriſon ſhall exceed the amount of the revenues ſo aſſigned, then the King of Tanjore ſhall make good the deficiency.

9. That if any diſputes ariſe reſpecting contingent or other expenſes, they ſhall be finally adjuſted by the King of Tanjore's agents and our Preſident and Council, and not otherwiſe.

10. That all repairs of fortifications ſhall be conducted by our Engineer, at the King of Tanjore's expenſe; but no works or repairs whatever ſhall be undertaken without his approbation and conſent, which ſhall always be ſignified in writing, nor until an eſtimate ſhall have been made of the charge to be incurred, and the meaſure fully approved and authorized by our Governor and Council.

11. That no treaty with foreign powers ſhall be concluded by the King of Tanjore without our concurrence, nor ſhall any alliance be formed by him to the prejudice of the Company, nor any aid or aſſiſtance be given, directly or indirectly, to the enemies of the Britiſh nation.

12. And in caſe troubles ſhall ariſe in the Kingdom of Tanjore, and the troops of the Company, or of the Nabob, ſhall march to the King of Tanjore's aſſiſtance at his requiſition, all extraordinary expenſes incurred thereby ſhall be defrayed by him, over and above the charges of the garriſon as aforeſaid.

13. No troops whatever, except thofe of the Company, fhall be permitted to refide within the City of Tanjore, and except alfo fuch native guards as may be neceffary for fupporting the dignity of his Majefty's government; and the number of fuch native guards fhall be fixed by our Governor and Council, and not exceeded or augmented by the King of Tanjore on any account or pretence whatever.

14. You will not fail to explain to the King of Tanjore, that it is by no means our intention to impoverifh or diftrefs Tanjore; that the troops to be maintained by him fhall be employed in his defence alone fo long as he keeps his faith with the Company; and that as their pay will be expended on the fpot, no drain of treafure or other inconvenience can happen to his country in confequence of the propofed arrangements.

15. As our principal views extend no further than the fafety of Tanjore, and the prevention of European influence therein, we require no greater portion of the revenues to be affigned to the Company, than fhall be deemed abfolutely neceffary for the fupport of our garrifon; but if any unforefeen circumftance fhall render fuch revenue inadequate thereto, the King of Tanjore muft, as before obferved, caufe payment of the troops to be made from his other refources.

16. Although juftice to our own honour, and to the King of Tanjore, compels us to take meafures for delivering him out of the hands of the Nabob of the Carnatic, you are neverthelefs to declare publickly in our name, that we will by no means protect the King of Tanjore in with-holding from Mahmud Ally his ftipulated tribute of four Lacks of Rupees per annum, or any part of it, but that, on the contrary, we will do our utmoft to procure payment thereof to the faid Nabob.

17. In regard to furnifhing fupplies in time of war, the King of Tanjore fhall not be obliged to comply with any requifition for troops, unlefs our Governor and Council join the Nabob in making fuch requi-

 fition;

ſition; nor ſhall the quota to be furniſhed to the Circar be left indefinite, but be limited to ſuch ſupplies as ſhall on all occaſions be deemed juſt and reaſonable by our ſaid Governor and Council; and the charge thereof, if defrayed by the King of Tanjore, ſhall be deducted from the annual tribute to be paid by him to the Nabob of the Carnatic.

18. As the Nabob has intimated his deſire, that the Government of Tanjore ſhould be placed in the hands of the King of Tanjore's brother, or of ſome other of his family, we direct, that in caſe the King of Tanjore ſhall not be living at the time of your receipt hereof at Fort St. George, you forthwith proceed to place the next of the royal line, or ſome other proper perſon of the King of Tanjore's family, upon the throne of his anceſtors; ſubject however to all terms and conditions required by the Company, reſpecting Tanjore, in theſe our orders and inſtructions.

19. In the year 1771 we find the Nabob obtained from the Rajah his arrears of tribute with intereſt thereon, indemnification for his expenſes, and ſundry preſents to his children, amounting in the whole to Rupees 45,27,000, beſides the ceſſion of certain diſtricts to the amount of Rupees 4,80,000 per annum; we muſt therefore conclude, that the charges of the firſt expedition againſt Tanjore were more than reimburſed by the above acquiſitions.

20. Perſuaded as we are that this has been the caſe, we direct, that you pay no regard to that article of the treaty of 1771, which reſpects the alienation of part of the Rajah's dominions. If the Nabob had not a juſt title to thoſe territories before the concluſion of that treaty, we deny that he obtained any right thereby, further than to the temporary ſovereignty of ſuch diſtricts as were aſſigned to him for ſecuring the payment of his expenſes, and which were to be returned to the Rajah when ſuch payment ſhould be completed.

21. As the expedition againſt Tanjore in 1773 was ſhort, being undertaken in the month of Auguſt, and concluded in September, we appre-

apprehend the revenues of the country could not ſuffer great diminution by that war; and we muſt ſuppoſe that the plunder of the place, and the receipt of the revenues for more than two years, will have rendered the Nabob a very conſiderable gainer, after defraying all charges incurred by his Excellency in the ſaid expedition.

22. We could wiſh you to obtain a ſtatement of the Nabob's receipts and diſburſements on the above account, but we fear it is impracticable; however we recommend it to your attention, in order to prevent him from pleading the above circumſtances as an excuſe or reaſon for delaying payment of his debts to the Company, and thoſe to his private European creditors, in caſe they ſhould be ſpeedily demanded.

23. Another object of your early attention muſt be, to acquire a complete knowledge of thoſe territories which have been granted to the Company on the Coaſt of Coromandel, and to eſtabliſh a judicious and permanent ſyſtem for their future management. And here we muſt obſerve, that the late diſpoſition manifeſted by the Nabob, and his apparent views to independency, render it highly expedient for us to augment our ſtrength within our own poſſeſſions, ſo far as it can be done without diminiſhing thoſe reſources, which have hitherto been appropriated for the proviſion of our inveſtment, and for the ſupport of our government.

24. And being well aſſured that the Jaghire lands and northern Circars, and eſpecially the latter, will be found capable of anſwering this deſireable purpoſe, if duly explored and properly regulated; we therefore direct, that when affairs reſpecting Tanjore ſhall have been accommodated and finally adjuſted, a Committee of our Council, conſiſting of five members, be appointed to make the circuit of the Northern Circars; and that they aſcertain, with all poſſible exactneſs, the produce of the country, the number of inhabitants, the ſtate of the manufactures, the fortified places, the groſs amount of the revenues,

nues, the articles from which they arife, the mode by which they are collected, the charges of collection, the fpecific proportion ufually received by the Rajah or Zemindar, and that which cuftom or ufage has allotted to the cultivator as the reward of his labour.

25. They are alfo particularly to enquire what fecurity the native has for his property, what courts there are for the adminiftration of juftice, and how far fimilar regulations to thofe lately eftablifhed at Bengal by our Prefident and Council may with propriety be introduced into the Northern Circars.

26. It is by no means our wifh to deprive the hereditary Rajahs or Zemindars of their annual income; on the contrary we mean to fecure it to them, without leaving them under the neceffity of keeping up an armed force to compel payment thereof. And it is alfo our earneft defire to deliver the inhabitants, fo far as may be in our power, from undue exactions and oppreffions.

27. The impropriety of fuffering any Zemindar to become formidable to his neighbours, or too powerful, cannot admit of a doubt. We never approved the policy of our late Governor and Council in confenting to accept a fmall tribute, or fuch compofition for lands as Sitteramrauze might think proper to make, without afcertaining in any degree the value of fuch lands. And if it be true that his power has heretofore rendered it dangerous to rifk his difpleafure, by admitting competitors to bid for lands, it is high time to correct our fyftem, and to difallow the keeping of other troops than our own in the Circars; more efpecially as fuch troops are not fubject to our orders, but render our tenants lefs dependent than they ought to be upon our authority and control.

28. In order to enable us to ftrike at the root of this evil, the Committee of Circuit muft take the moft effectual meafures for afcertaining the ftrength of each Rajah, Zemindar, or land-holder in the Circars,

Circars, the expenſe of his houſhold and that of his troops, the means he may have of defraying ſuch expenſes, and the number of regular Seapoys which it will be neceſſary for us to maintain in the reſpective diſtricts, in order to keep them in due ſubjection.

29. As an addition of military ſtrength within our own poſſeſſions ſeems to us ſo abſolutely neceſſary, and as we can have no doubt but that, with proper economy, a conſiderable force may be maintained in the Circars, and the annual rent or tribute remitted to our treaſury at Fort St. George be nevertheleſs conſiderably increaſed; we are therefore reſolved, that every military man reſiding in the Circars ſhall be abſolutely under our command, obliged to ſerve us wherever he may be wanted, and not left at liberty to take part with our enemies in caſe troubles ſhould ariſe in the country.

30. After having fully inveſtigated the provincial accounts of the Circars, if any of the Zemindars ſhall prefer receiving their income from the Company, and relinquiſh their hereditary claims, we have no objection to allowing them ſuch ſtipends as ſhall be found reaſonable in lieu of the benefits ariſing from their Zemindaries. And as it is our intention, on the expiration of the preſent leaſes, that the Committee of Circuit ſhall proceed to let the lands for a term of years, in the ſame manner as hath been practiſed at Bengal, it is our order, that the Zemindars have their option of retiring upon ſtipends, or of continuing to rent the lands at a proper valuation; but it is our poſitive command, that the proportion of the produce to be received by farmers of every denomination be aſcertained and exactly defined; and that it be an expreſs condition in every leaſe, that all farmers who ſhall exact more than their due proportion from the under-tenants ſhall forfeit their farms; and you are to take eſpecial care, that the means of redreſs, in caſe of impoſition or oppreſſion, be rendered as eaſy as poſſible.

31. Theſe

31. Theſe are the outlines of the plan which we wiſh to ſee adopted for the Circars. In regard to the Jaghire lands, many conſiderations induce us to keep them in our immediate poſſeſſion; and unleſs the Nabob ſhall agree to ſuch arrangements as we deem neceſſary for our mutual advantage, we ſhall no longer conſent to his renting the ſaid Jaghire lands, as it almoſt enables him to ſhut us up within the walls of Madras, and even to prevent us from obtaining a proper ſupply of proviſions for our ſettlement; we therefore direct, that you conclude no agreement with the Nabob for the ſaid lands for more than one year; and that it be an expreſs condition in ſuch agreement, that our Committee of Circuit ſhall be at full liberty to explore the country, and to aſcertain the real produce and revenues thereof, in the manner deſcribed in our preſent inſtructions reſpecting the Northern Circars.

32. If any of our ſervants, civil or military, ſhall oppoſe the execution of theſe our orders and inſtructions, or refuſe to aſſiſt in carrying them into full effect, we hereby declare, that upon proper repreſentation of the caſe to us, every ſuch perſon ſhall be abſolutely diſmiſſed from the ſervice of the Company.

33. And in order to add the greateſt weight in our power to your proceedings, and to enſure ſo far as may be ſucceſs to your meaſures, we have directed our Governor-General and Council of Bengal to cooperate with you, if you ſhall find it neceſſary, and to yield you all proper aſſiſtance in bringing the important affairs hereby committed to your management to a ſpeedy and happy concluſion.

34. Although we have not expreſsly commiſſioned or appointed any perſon to ſucceed, as Preſident of our Council and Governor of Fort St. George, in caſe of the death or abſence of Lord Pigot, it is nevertheleſs our pleaſure, if his Lordſhip ſhall be prevented, by death or otherwiſe, from taking upon himſelf that office, and thereby from executing our preſent orders and inſtructions relative to Tanjore, that

in ſuch caſe the eldeſt Counſellor for the time being do take upon himſelf the adminiſtration of our affairs, as Preſident of our Council, till our pleaſure ſhall be known; and that you fail not, under the above circumſtances, to concur with ſuch Preſident in carrying our ſaid orders and inſtructions immediately into execution.

35. It is our pleaſure, that our Committee of Circuit for the Jaghire lands and northern Circars ſhall conſiſt of

George Dawſon,
Claud Ruſſell,
Alexander Dalrymple,
Samuel Johnſon, and
George Mackay, Eſquires;

and we doubt not but the capacity, diligence, and fidelity of the above Gentlemen will anſwer our expectations, and fully juſtify the choice we have made, in appointing them to carry into execution our orders and inſtructions on this important ſubject.

We are,

London,
12th April, 1775.

Your loving friends,

H. Fletcher	Ed^{d} Wheler
Daniel Wier	John Harriſon
R^{d} Hall	Jno. Woodhouſe
Samuel Peach	Joſeph Sparkes
W. G. Freeman.	Fred^{k} Pigou
Pet. Laſcelles	Wm. James
Chas Boddam	Hen^{y} Savage
Ja^{s} Moffatt	T. B. Rous

John Smith.

To his Highneſs the Nabob Wau Lau Jaw, Ummeer-ul Hind, Omdahtt-ul-Mulck, Serauje ul Dowla, Anwer ul dee Cawn, Behauder, Munſoor Jung, Sepah Surdar, Subahdar of Arcot and the Carnatic.

AS from the friendſhip which has ſo long ſubſiſted between your Highneſs and the Eaſt-India Company, we cannot but conſider your intereſts as our own; it is with the utmoſt concern we find your Highneſs of opinion, that thoſe who ſhould be the guardians of our united intereſts are capable of preferring private emolument to the proſperity of your country, and the happineſs of your people.

The ſentiments of your Highneſs reſpecting the qualifications of Governors and Commanders of our armies coincide entirely with our own. We are convinced they ſhould be men of capacity and integrity; and your Highneſs will permit us to aſſure you, that as ſuch only can merit, ſuch only will receive our favour and ſupport.

You are pleaſed to ſuggeſt, that in caſe of our Jaghire lands being let to renters, thoſe renters would be obliged to make large preſents to our ſervants. An intimation of this nature from your Highneſs cannot but greatly alarm us, as it tends to impeach the integrity of our ſervants, who cannot receive preſents of any kind without a violation of our orders, and a breach of the truſt repoſed in them by the Company.

What your Highneſs has been pleaſed to ſignify to us reſpecting our northern Circars is a confirmation of your regard to our intereſts; but here we hope it is needleſs for us to obſerve, that if our ſervants have been able to acquire princely fortunes in thoſe diſtricts, as ſeems ſuggeſted by your Highneſs, it is utterly unknown to us; however we have now fully conſidered the affairs of our Circars, and ſhall

not

not fail to regulate them in ſuch a manner, as ſhall in future prevent abuſes, ſecure tranquillity to the natives, and all thoſe advantages to the Company which we have a right to expect from ſo valuable a part of our poſſeſſions.

What reply can we give to the requiſition of your Highneſs for men to be ſent who ſhall act conformably to our mutual intereſts? It has been a conſtant inſtruction from us to our ſervants to proceed on equitable and honourable principles; and if their behaviour has not been conformable thereto, your Highneſs will do us the juſtice to believe their meaſures could not be authorized by your warmeſt friends the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company.

The laſt letter we had the honour to receive from your Highneſs continues to arraign the conduct of our ſervants; and we heſitate not to own, that in many inſtances we have reaſon to believe it has been repugnant to their duty; we have therefore determined to remove Mr. Wynch from being our Governor of Fort St. George, and to appoint the Right Honourable Lord Pigot to that office and ſtation. Of his Lordſhip's good conduct your Highneſs formerly gave us the moſt ample and honourable teſtimony; and from his known affection to your perſon and family, his approved fidelity to the Company, and his acknowledged abilities, we confidently expect the moſt faithful and eminent ſervices, and truſt they will be attended with the moſt happy conſequences.

In the late troubles reſpecting Tanjore, we find your Highneſs's declaration to the Rajah's Vackeel breathes a ſpirit of moderation, which manifeſts the benevolence of your mind. What then muſt our ſorrow be, when we obſerve that our ſervants refuſed to liſten to the ſupplications of the Rajah, when he was ſolicitous to be reſtored to your Highneſs's favour through their mediation? Indeed we confeſs ourſelves at a loſs to conceive what motives could induce them to decline

the office of mediator between your Highneſs and the Rajah, at a time when their friendly interpoſition might have prevented the horrors of war, and more eſpecially as they were compelled by ſolemn ſtipulation to guaranty the treaty of 1762.

As Lord Pigot is perfectly acquainted with our ſentiments reſpecting the proceedings of our ſervants, and inſtructed by us to reſtore good government, and introduce a regular ſyſtem for the management of our affairs in general, we ſhall not at this time trouble your Highneſs with further remarks thereon. We are convinced that all poſſible attention will be given by his Lordſhip and Council to the intereſt of your Highneſs and the Company, and conſequently to the welfare of the Carnatic; and we reſt ſatisfied that your Highneſs will cordially unite with our ſervants, and readily concur in every meaſure which ſhall be adopted towards the completion of theſe juſt and honourable purpoſes.

We cannot conclude this addreſs to your Highneſs, without renewing our ſolicitations in behalf of your private European creditors. Their diſtreſs, we are informed, is very great, and it is ſaid to be owing to their property being in your hands. We mention this circumſtance as the moſt powerful argument to induce you to make ſpeedy proviſion for the payment of what ſhall be found juſtly due to them. We entertain no doubts of your honour in this reſpect; but as the neceſſities of many individuals may not be fully known to your Highneſs, we embrace the preſent opportunity of acquainting you therewith, and of requeſting that they may become the objects of your immediate attention; and as we are now pleading the cauſe of Britiſh ſubjects ſuffering inconvenience on your account, we apply to your juſtice in their favour, and flatter ourſelves we cannot be unſucceſsful in ſuch an application.

It is our earneſt wiſh, that the friendſhip ſubſiſting between your Highneſs and the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company may be daily ſtrengthened;

ened; that the honours of your illuſtrious Houſe may be increaſed; and that your Highneſs may long enjoy the happineſs of ſeeing your country flouriſh in peace and plenty, and your ſubjects happy in the protection they receive from your auſpicious government.

In teſtimony of the ſincerity of our attachment to your perſon and family, we have hereunto ſet our great ſeal, in the city of London, this 12th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1775. (L. S.)

Fort St. George, 11th December, 1775.

At a Conſultation,

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Preſident. Monday, 11th Dec.

George Stratton	Gen. Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawſon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell	A. Dalrymple
J. M. Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

THE Right Honourable Lord Pigot having received charge of this government, now takes the oaths of allegiance and office, and afterwards adminiſters them to Mr. Ruſſell and Mr. Dalrymple, who then take their ſeats at the Board. The Rt. Hon. Lord Pigot, and Meſſrs. Ruſſell and Dalrymple take their ſeats at the Board.

The general and ſeparate letters from the Honourable Court of Directors, dated the 12th April laſt, and received by the Grenville, are now read. General and ſeparate letter from England per Grenville.

Minute on the orders respecting Tanjore.

The orders from the Company in their separate letter respecting Tanjore being of a very particular nature, the Board are of opinion, that great caution and delicacy will be required in communicating them to the Nabob; for although they do not apprehend that he will be so imprudent as to oppose the execution of them, yet if he can be made thoroughly sensible of the necessity of an absolute compliance on his part, it is probable he may then be induced to request himself that the orders of the Company may be put in force. This is the ultimate point to which the Board are desirous of bringing him, as the Company's intentions will by this means be happily fulfilled, without hurting the Nabob's dignity or importance in the eyes of the country powers.

The President to communicate the same to the Nabob.

The President, Lord Pigot, is requested to communicate to the Nabob the purport of the Company's orders, and to endeavour to engage his compliance in the manner above-mentioned.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Geo. Dawson
Henry Brooke
Claud Russell

I take this occasion to remark, that my name to the proceedings of Council only testifies that such were the resolutions of the *majority* of the *Board*, and does not *imply* my *particular* assent to *every* matter. } A. Dalrymple

J. M. Stone
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

His

His Highness the Nabob Waulaujau, &c. to the Honourable the Chairman and Directors, &c.

I HAVE received by the hands of Lord Pigot your friendly letter, and underſtand the contents. The ſudden departure of the ſhip that carries this will not admit of my writing to you as fully as I could wiſh, and as I intend doing at another opportunity; however give me leave to aſſure you of this, that my remembrance of your paſt favour and friendſhip will never be effaced, and that the friendſhip I have always borne you will never be diminiſhed. I am therefore convinced, that you will always preſerve a regard to my honour and to that of my family, and that my rights and poſſeſſions will be always ſecured by your aſſiſtance and ſupport.

I pray to God Almighty to give you long life, and every bleſſing that this world can afford.

What can I ſay more?

Given at Chipaute,
December 14th, 1775.

Extract of a Letter from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George to the Court of Directors, dated the 14th December, 1775.

SO early after the receipt of your commands of the 12th of April by the Grenville your honours cannot expect to hear much from us; we have however the ſatisfaction to tell you, that the Nabob with his whole family are at preſent here, and we learn from your Preſident, that he has given him the ſtrongeſt aſſurances that he will be guided by his advice upon all occaſions; we truſt therefore your wiſhes will be completed in a ſhort time, the Nabob ſeeing that his whole truſt and confidence muſt be placed in you, and you only. The King of Tanjore is with his family in Tanjore, there is no fear for his ſafety, and a little time will, we hope, point out to the Nabob, that your orders may be complied with at his own requeſt, without hurting what he calls his dignity and honour.

Fort St. George, 30th December, 1775.

At a Consultation,

PRESENT,

Saturday, 30th Dec.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawſon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

The Minutes of laſt Conſultation read.

The Preſident reports the Nabob's deſire to have the orders of the Company relative to Tanjore tranſmitted him in writing.
Letter to the Nabob in conſequence, with extract from the Company's ſeparate letter.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident acquaints the Board, that the two ſons of the Nabob, Umdit Ul Omrah and Ameer Ul Omrah, waited on him this morning, and informed him it was the wiſh of their father that he, the Preſident, would communicate to the Nabob in writing the purport of the orders he had received from the Company relative to Tanjore. The Preſident thinks this cannot be done in a more ſatisfactory manner than by ſending to him an extract of thoſe orders; which orders being again read, the Board concur in opinion with the Preſident, and he is accordingly requeſted to tranſmit them to the Nabob, together with a letter which is now wrote in conſequence.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Geo. Dawſon
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
A. Dalrymple
J. M. Stone
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

May

To the Nabob.

May it pleafe your Highnefs,

UNDERSTANDING from your Sons Umdit-ul-Omrah and Ummeer-ul-Omrah, whom I had the honour to fee this morning, that it was your wifh I fhould communicate to you in writing the purport of the orders I have received from the Company refpecting Tanjore, I think I cannot comply with your requeft in a more fatisfactory manner than by giving you an extract of thofe orders.

I have the honour to be,

Fort St. George,
30th Dec. 1775.

Your Highnefs's moft obliged and obedient,

R. FLETCHER.*

Extract of Fort St. George Military Confultations, 22d January, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Prefident.

George Stratton	Robert Fletcher
George Dawfon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruffell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

THE Right Honourable the Prefident acquaints the Board, that after the many converfations with the Nabob, which he has from time to time communicated, and after having repeatedly affured his Highnefs, that "It was *impoffible* to accept of his offer, that the Company's

* This Letter appears in the Country Correfpondence figned *R. Fletcher*, but it is fuppofed the fignature muft have been a miftake in the Tranfcriber, and that the Letter fhould have been figned *Pigot.*

" troops should garrison Tanjore, under *any conditions* which might be *con-*
" *strued to imply a promise* on *our part* that the *country* should remain under
" the *Nabob's management*, although his Highness might rely on the
" utmost attention being paid to his interest, so far as was consistent
" with the orders of our Honourable Masters;" he, the President, had this morning received a letter, which he was taught to believe contained the Nabob's assent to conform to the pleasure of the Court of Directors; but this letter being very long, and as, from the cursory explanation of Mr. Chambers the translator, the President apprehends the letter contained stipulations inconsistent with the Company's orders, he wished therefore to have another opportunity of conversing with the Nabob, when he was thoroughly acquainted with the substance of this letter, and would for that purpose see him as soon as the letter was translated. But in the mean time, that no delay may be occasioned, it is resolved, that Lieutenant-Colonel James, commanding at Trichinopoly, be directed to order Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, with the European battalion, the company of artillery, and one battalion of Seapoys, to hold themselves in readiness to take the field. Orders to be issued to the Paymaster at Trichinopoly to provide all things necessary, but to be informed, that the troops are not to be put on batta until they are actually under orders to march.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Consultations, 23d January, 1776.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Edward James, commanding at Trichinopoly.

SIR,

YOU will, on the receipt hereof, direct Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, with the European battalion, the company of artillery, and one battalion of Seapoys, to hold themselves in readiness to take the field.

The

The Paymaster is now directed to provide all things necessary, but the troops are not to be put on batta until they are actually under orders to march.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George,
23d January, 1776.

Your most obedient servants,

PIGOT, &c. Council.

To Mr. William Wynch, Paymaster at Trichinopply.

SIR,

AN order being this day sent to Lieutenant-Colonel James, directing Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, with the European battalion, the company of artillery, and one battalion of Seapoys, to hold themselves in readiness to take the field; you are hereby directed to provide all things necessary, but the troops are not to be put on batta until they are actually under orders to march.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George,
23d January, 1776.

Your most obedient servant,

R. J. SULIVAN.

From the Nabob. Received 23d January, 1776.

Your letter, with the extract of the Company's orders which they have given you on the subject of Tanjore, I have received, and am convinced that the Gentlemen of the Company, at the time of giving such orders, were totally unacquainted with the circumstances of affairs here, the just reasons for the taking of Tanjore, and my rights; and

and that they have heard groundleſs and contradictory reports, or they would never have given their ſervants ſuch an order as this. I have apprehended that people in Europe have repreſented the taking of Tanjore as an injuſtice of mine, as though my ſon and I had committed an act of oppreſſion upon Tuljaujee, &c. but as you are a well-wiſher to the Company, and an old friend of mine, I deſire of you as a particular favour, that you will oblige me by examining thoroughly the groundleſs reports you have heard in Europe; and as the gentlemen of the Company have not received proper and clear accounts of this matter, it is therefore neceſſary that I write ſomewhat of the circumſtances that relate to it for their information.

The miſconduct of Tuljaujee, the connexions I found he was forming with the French, the Dutch, the Danes, Hyder Aly Cawn, and others; his ſelling and mortgaging certain dependencies of Tanjore to other European nations; his ſoliciting from them ſuccours of troops and military ſtores; his employing great ſums of money, and a Vackeel, to call in a Maratta force to diſturb and lay waſte the Carnatic; his ſtirring up other neighbouring powers to a war; his ſupplying Hyder Aly Cawn with money, grain, &c. when he entered with a deſign of ruining the Carnatic; his invading the countries of Marawar and Nalcottah, both tributary to me, notwithſtanding mine and the Governor and Council's remonſtrances; his taking from them money, jewels, elephants, horſes, cannon, &c. and his with-holding the tribute from me, which the Company themſelves took notice of in their orders from Europe: All theſe points, out of the regard to the tranquillity of the Carnatic, I found it neceſſary to repreſent at large to former Governors.

Ever ſince my firſt connexion with the Company my affairs have been carried on by the mediation of the Governor and Council, and ſtill continue in the ſame channel; nor have I ever conſidered the Company and the Governor and Council as diſtinct from each other. Accordingly that ſame Mr. Dupré, who, in the year 1762, went to conclude

conclude a peace with and fettle the bufinefs of Tanjore; who went afterwards to Europe and became a Director, and who was afterwards appointed to the government of Madras; who was well acquainted with the inclinations and fentiments of the Gentlemen of the Company, and of whom indeed they themfelves wrote me, in their's of the 17th of March, 1769, that they had a full dependence upon his judgment, and whofe meafures they approved after he went to Europe; he, in the year 1771, having conceived that the conduct of Tuljaujee was contrary to the peace of 1762, injurious to the interefts and honour of the Company and me, and prejudicial to the peace and tranquillity of the Carnatic and the Company's Jaghire, as well as to their trade, did, with the advice of the prefent Governor-General, Mr. Haftings, who was then fecond in Council at Madras, and all the reft of the Board, together with that of his Majefty's Minifter Plenipotentiary, order the Company's forces away with mine, in order to take the fort and country of Tanjore, and deliver it to me; he alfo wrote me of an order the Company had given to affift me, in a letter dated 25th of September, 1771; and of all thefe papers the Company have had copies. As, however, Tuljaujee returned for that time to his former obedience to me, and agreed to pay his pefhcufh, and refrain from fuch conduct as he had before been guilty of, to which purport he gave me an engagement under his feal, I thought it proper to recal the forces, notwithftanding that I might then have taken his fort, and that this was the defire of the Governor and Council. But Tuljaujee, fo far from adhering any time to his obedience or engagements, began again to difcover his former mode of proceeding; to wit: As foon as ever my forces, and thofe of the Company, were withdrawn to Trichinopoly, (the peace having been concluded on the   of   17) he, by a large fum of money, called in to his affiftance a body of 20,000 horfe from the army of Trimbec Row, who was then with 40,000 in the country of Hyder Aly Cawn; and accordingly Trimbec Row with that force croffed the paffes, and plundered my diftricts as far as Calafpawk: him, however, by means of a confiderable fum, I prevailed upon to leave my country. The Rajah alfo requefted fuc-

cour of the Dutch, who promiſed to aſſiſt him, as the Governor-General's letter of Batavia to me, 26th of July, 1771, on that ſubject, teſtifies; ſo that I repreſented his bad conduct to Governor Wynch in mine of 18th of June, 1773. Accordingly he, General Smith, and the reſt of the Council, conſidered the taking of the place as a meaſure of the utmoſt importance, and abſolutely neceſſary, and of courſe ſent the Company's troops with mine a ſecond time. By the favour of Heaven the fort and country fell into my hands, and Tuljaujee continues to live in his own houſe, as he always did, and has the utmoſt attention and reſpect paid to him; his family too are all in the ſame places they formerly inhabited, nor has there the ſmalleſt variation taken place in the manner of living of either him or his family.

There was alſo another motive for the ſeizure of that place; I mean the prevention of all internal diſturbances in the Carnatic, agreeable to the deſire of the Gentlemen of the Company, expreſſed in their's of the 4th of March, 1767, which by this meaſure has been effected; otherwiſe what troubles and diſaſters might there not have ariſen by this time? for the Tanjore country is ſo ſituated in the midſt of this, that no injury can reach it until the greateſt ravages ſhall have been committed in the Carnatic.

It is now five years ſince Governor Dupré gave orders for the taking of Tanjore, and ſent the Company's troops on that ſervice; and it is the third year ſince it actually fell: this the Gentlemen of the Company have been acquainted with, and have been ſilent. Now conſidering the immenſe expenſes I have in this time incurred, by redeeming the diſtricts Tuljaujee had ſold for an immenſe ſum to other European nations, at the price they required; in diſcharging his other debts, and paying large arrears to his troops; in defraying the expenſes of my own and Company's forces, and in giving a conſiderable ſum to the Maratta to prevent his invading the country; alſo the great debts I have contracted from the Engliſh gentlemen, who have aſſiſted me with money for the expedition, and the immenſe ſums I have taken up of the

country

country people to put the country in a flourifhing condition, to repair the watercourfes and banks, and for the rebuilding the fortifications of Tanjore, under the infpection of Major Stephens, the Company's Engineer. I have diftributed to a confiderable amount amongft the hufbandmen, to enable them to buy oxen for the plough, and paddy-feed to fow, and have taken up paddy-feed in my own name of the inhabitants, and diftributed it gratis, fo that the cultivation exceeds much what it was in Tuljaujee's time. Confidering too, that merely on the ftrength of the revenues of Tanjore, I have taken upon me the expenfe of the three battalions of Seapoys, and paid their arrears, amounting to two Lacks and fixty odd thoufand Pagodas, which I was formerly unable to do; that, as a reward for the fervices of the troops, I iffued fo bountiful a largefs, and have had fo many other expenfes to defray in both expeditions for military ftores, and for the fupport of the Zemindars and Cooleries who accompanied the army with fuch numerous bodies of men, all which would make too long a catalogue to give a detail of here: I fay, after all this, I am aftonifhed and amazed that at the end of five years the Gentlemen of the Company fhould give my friend fuch an order as this.

The concern I am under fince the perufal of thefe orders is fuch as I am unable to exprefs in writing; for in cafe they are put in execution as they direct, it is not my right alone that will fuffer injury, but my honour, as well as that of my family, and my affairs in general, will be hurt; and moreover the honour, juftice, and interefts of the Company, as well as the tranquillity of the Carnatic, will be injured by it.

The King of Great-Britain wrote me congratulation on the fuccefs of my troops and thofe of the Company; and his Majefty's Minifter Plenipotentiary read that letter in my full Durbar before all prefent and the Vakeels of the neighbouring powers; and the King of Delhy, together with all the Indian and European Chiefs, with a view to my right, wrote me congratulations.

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Can I imagine that the Gentlemen of the Company, after approving of, ſhould again diſapprove of the meaſure; and what will people ſay of this event?—The money that people have lent me, in dependence on my honour, for this very buſineſs, and which I was under the neceſſity of borrowing to carry it on, the payment of that lies upon me, and my reimburſement is from the country of Tanjore. The Gentlemen of the Company have been alſo preſſing with me about my creditors.

You and your Council, who are well acquainted with the whole ſtate of the affair, will I hope ſeriouſly conſider what I have ſaid. The Company in their orders to you ſay, that they were Guarantees for the Rajah in the treaty of 1762. This guarantee could only extend to Rajah Pertaub Sing; and he even forfeited his right to it by the hoſtile deſigns he ſince ſhewed, which can be proved by his letters. I have formerly often communicated them to you, and particularly to Mr. Palk, in a letter dated 30 October, 1764.

By the cuſtoms of the country Rajah Tuljaujee cannot be conſidered as included in the treaty of 1762. You will pleaſe to conſider his evil and refractory conduct, and his mortgaging and ſelling diſtricts to Europeans, contrary to your intereſts and mine, and then judge whether taking his capital from him was acting contrary to juſtice or not, granting that the guarantee extended to him as it did to his father. You will pleaſe to conſider, whether he forfeited his right to the protection of the treaty or not, when he broke through it himſelf.

The Company, in their letter, dated 17 March, 1769, to Governor Dupré and his Council, ſay, "We think it highly unjuſt, that the "Rajah of Tanjore ſhould poſſeſs a country ſo flouriſhing as his is, "and capable of bearing ſome part of the expenſes of our troops, "without paying any thing towards its defence and that of the Car- "natic. We obſerve that the Nabob has mentioned this to you in

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" one of his letters entered in the country correſpondence; and he ſays
" in the ſame letter, that the Zemindars of the Carnatic and its de-
" pendencies are protected by the troops kept by him. It is well
" known that three of the laſt Soubahs of the Carnatic received from
" the Rajah of Tanjore ſeventy or eighty Lacks, and even a Crore of
" Rupees; that the Rajah ſometimes paid fifty lacks to former Nabobs;
" and at the time the preſent Nizam was defeated by our army, he
" would not have been ſatisfied under a Crore of Rupees from the
" Rajah had he gone into his country. We therefore think it highly
" proper that he ſhould be made to defray part of the expenſes in-
" curred in defence of his country; and we order you to give ſuch
" neceſſary aſſiſtance to the Nabob as he may call for againſt the
" Rajah of Tanjore; and if the Rajah then refuſes to pay his ſhare of
" the expenſes, you may then follow any juſt means to obtain it from
" him."

My dear Sir! I have been long the Company's friend; you and I have been intimate for many years, and I entertain the greateſt hopes of welfare to my affairs from your diſpoſition towards me. Although my treaty with the Governor and Council does not admit a Company's garriſon being placed in Tanjore, yet ſince the Company, who are my beſt friends, have it ſo much at heart to fix a garriſon there, I ſhall chearfully comply with their requeſt on the ſame footing as they hold Trichinopoly, that I am to pay the troops garriſoned there, and afford them every aſſiſtance in my power; I ſhall alſo increaſe the allowance of the Rajah and his family.

I have put my life and honour, and thoſe of my children and relations, under the protection of the Company, and put my whole truſt upon them, have fixed my reſidence at Madras; what great matter is it then for me to deliver up to them a fort of brick and ſtone? But to give back the fort and country to Tuljaujee, which can bring nothing but diſgrace upon me; what anſwer can I poſſibly give on the ſubject? The Company and I have received mutual advantages from each other;

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by their affiftance I have acquired the power which was my right, and I fhall not put faith enough in idle reports to believe they ever mean to difpoffefs me of that right. I underftand from you, that if I refufe acknowledging the Company's orders which you brought relative to Tanjore, it will caufe detriment to my affairs, and the Company will be difpleafed with me. Whenever the Company choofe to place a garrifon in the Fort of Tanjore, it is in their power; but I have only to beg, from their friendly difpofition towards me, that they will confider my right, and act as juftice fhall direct them. In what manner then can they be difpleafed with me?

My dear friend!—I have been long a friend of the Company's; my father's life was facrificed for them, and my riches have been expended in their fervice; I now beg, from their friendfhip, that they will have pity upon an old man's grey hairs.

As the Company have trufted to your wifdom and experience the affair of Tanjore, you have the power to explain to them the bad conduct and evil intentions of Tuljaujee; and the right I had to take his country; that I have confented to have a Company's garrifon placed there, as at Trichinopoly and other places; and that I fhall allow the Rajah and his family a fuitable allowance; and I fhall give him to underftand before your garrifon is fent there, that he muft depend upon my favour for his releafement or otherwife if not in my power.

I owe large arrears to my army, and drafts have been iffued on the Tanjore revenues for difcharging large debts contracted on that fervice: I hope, from your friendly difpofition to me, that you will fend orders to your officers not to interfere in any manner, or interrupt my affairs in the Tanjore country, till an anfwer is received from England on the fubject. By fending fuch orders you will lay an obligation upon me, and I will admit an Englifh garrifon in Tanjore.

What more?

From

From the Nabob.

I HAVE received your letter, dated the 25th January. I answered your's on the subject of Tanjore on the 29th Zycadee. As I put my whole trust in you and the Company, I hope that you and them will pay a proper consideration to my rights.

What more?

Extract of Fort St. George Military Consultations, 25th January, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President. Thursday, 25th January, 1776.

George Stratton.	Robert Fletcher.
George Dawson.	Henry Brooke
Claud Russell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

THE Right Honourable the President acquaints the Board, that he has received assurances from the Nabob, that he will give immediate orders for the removal of all his troops from Tanjore, except 1000 Seapoys, who will remain in that fort until the same be garrisoned by the Company's troops, agreeably to the letter which he has this morning received from him, the translation of which is as followeth:

From the Nabob.

I HAVE read the Company's orders sent along with you, and I have answered them in my letter of January, 1776. I am satisfied to admit the Company's garrison into Tanjore, and you may order them

them to march into it the 15th day, reckoning from this date, and I will order my troops to leave that place.

What can I ſay more?

Dated 25th Jan. 1776.

THE Board being thoroughly ſatisfied with the above letter from the Nabob, deſire that the Preſident will addreſs the following letter to his Highneſs:

To the Nabob.

I AM to thank your Highneſs for the mark you have, by your letter of this day, given of your ſteady friendſhip for my employers, the Eaſt-India Company, by complying with the orders I have received from them to put a garriſon into Tanjore; and although it was impoſſible for me to receive that place on any conditions, yet you may be aſſured of every mark of my attention to your intereſt, ſo far as ſhall be conſiſtent with the Company's orders. I have the honour to be,

Your Highneſs's moſt obedient

Fort St. George,
25th Jan. 1776.

and moſt humble ſervant,

PIGOT.

Extract

Extract of Fort St. George Military Consultations, Friday, 26th January, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton	Robert Fletcher
George Dawson	Henry Brooke
Claud Russell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

The Minutes of last Consultation read.

THE Nabob having acquainted the Right Honourable the President, that he shall forthwith remove from Tanjore all the troops he has in that fort, except one thousand Seapoys, it is thought adviseable to direct that the following orders be issued.

To Lieutenant-Colonel James, commanding at Trichinopoly.

SIR,

THE Right Honourable the President and Council are pleased to direct, that, immediately on receipt hereof, you will order Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, with the battalion of Europeans, the company of Artillery, and one battalion and a half of Seapoys, with four field-pieces and stores in proportion, to march to Vellum, and remain there until further orders; half a battalion being only destined to garrison Trichinopoly for the present.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George,
26th January, 1776.

Your most obedient servant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

SIR,

I AM commanded by the Right Honourable the Prefident and Council to inform you, that you are to encamp near Vellum with the battalion of Europeans, company of Artillery, and a battalion of Seapoys, and that Captain Godfrey will receive orders to join you with the battalion under his command. The other half battalion ordered to march under your command is to garrifon Vellum for the prefent.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George, 26th January, 1776.

Your moft obedient fervant,

RICH[D] JOSEPH SULIVAN.

To Mr. William Wynch, Paymafter at Trichinopoly.

SIR,

YOU are to accompany the detachment ordered from Trichinopoly, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, and to defray all the expenfes attending the fame, as well as the expenfes of fuch other troops as may hereafter be added to that command, until you fhall receive orders to the contrary.

Dated in Fort St. George, this 26th Day of January, 1776.

Signed by order of the Prefident and Council,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

To

To Captain Godfrey, commanding at Vellum.

SIR,

THE Right Honourable the Prefident and Council are pleafed to direct, that when Lieutenant-Colonel Harper encamps near Vellum, you will march out with your battalion and put yourfelf under his command; Lieutenant-Colonel Harper will order five companies of another battalion to garrifon Vellum.

I am, Sir,

Your moft obedient Servant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Fort St. George,
26th January, 1776.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Confultations, 5th February, 1776.

27th. Came in letter from Col. James, commanding at Trichinopoly.

To the Right Honourable the Lord Pigot, Prefident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

LAST night I was honoured with your commands of the 23d inftant, and have iffued orders accordingly for the European battalion, with the company of Artillery, and the fecond battalion of Seapoys, to hold themfelves in readinefs to take the field.

The Honourable Board may depend on my vigilance in having every thing in readinefs for the intended fervice with as much expedition as poffible, and I hope they will approve of my ordering the

the Paymaster's people to furnish a month's provisions for four hundred men. I remain with due respect,

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your very obedient and most faithful Servant,

Trichinopoly,
27th January, 1776.

EDWARD JAMES.

2d. THE following letter was this day dispatched to Lieut. Colonel Harper, together with one enclosed from the President to the Rajah of Tanjore.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Humphry Harper.

SIR,

HAVING received assurances from the Nabob, that he has given orders for all his troops to evacuate the fort of Tanjore, except the number of one thousand men, you are on the 9th of this month to march with the detachment under your command, and having previously sent the accompanying order to the officer commanding the troops in the fort of Tanjore, to demand admission. The Commander in Chief will give you the necessary instructions on this occasion, as to the manner in which you are to relieve the garrison; we shall therefore only add, that you are to confine yourself to these objects alone, the safety of the fort, and the protection of the Rajah and his family. Enclosed is a letter from the Right Honourable the President to the Rajah, which you will deliver with your own hand, as soon as is convenient, after you are in possession of the fort.

We have consented that the Nabob's Kelladar shall remain in the town until further orders, and you will therefore shew him every proper attention.

Accompanying

Accompanying we ſend you a warrant empowering you to cauſe general courts-martial to be held in Tanjore and its dependencies.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, 2d February, 1776.

Your moſt humble Servants,

PIGOT, &c. Council.

From Lord Pigot to the King of Tanjore.

THE Engliſh Eaſt-India Company diſapproving of the late conduct of their ſervants with reſpect to Tanjore, have thought proper to direct me to replace you upon the throne of your anceſtors, upon certain terms and conditions to be agreed upon, for the mutual benefit of yourſelf and the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company, without infringing the rights of Mahomed Ally Cawn, Nabob of the Carnatic.

I have, in conſequence of theſe orders from my maſters, concerted meaſures with the Nabob ſo as to carry them properly into effect; and Colonel Harper, who will deliver you this, when he has relieved the Nabob's troops, will appoint for your protection ſuch guards as may be thought neceſſary.

I requeſt you will allow me a few days after hearing that the Engliſh troops are in poſſeſſion of Tanjore, before I ſay more to you than to aſſure you, that I will ſtudy to do every thing that is for the mutual benefit of you and my employers; and I hope you will permit the Nabob's officers to continue in the management of affairs until I have again the honour to write to you.

Fort St. George,
2d February, 1776.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Conſultations, 5th February, 1776.

READ the following letters from Colonel James, commanding at Trichinopoly, and Captain Godfrey, commanding at Vellum.

the Paymast[illegible]
hund[illegible]

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, Colonel Harper, with the *troops nominated by the Right* Honourable the President and Council *to proceed to Vellum, marched* from this garrison yesterday, and is *arrived at Tourgoody without* any impediment. I have the honour to *remain, with the greatest respect,*

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your very obedient and most faithful servant,

Trichinopoly,
February 1st, 1776.

EDW^D. JAMES.

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I HEREWITH send you a return of the troops in the garrison of Vellum, under my command, for the month of January last.

Colonel Harper will be here to-morrow with his detachment, when I shall join him with the 12th battalion of Seapoys, agreeable to the orders of the Board; and am, with the greatest respect,

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Vellum,
1st February, 1776.

ROB^T. GODFREY.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Consultations, 12th February, 1776.

11th. Came in letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

To the Right Honourable the President and Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I WAS this moment honoured with your letter dated the 2d instant, accompanied with the warrant for holding general courts-martial, and the Nabob's order to the commanding officer of Tanjore to deliver

over

over the charge of the faid garrifon to me; and I beg leave to affure you, that I fhall pay particular attention to your orders and the inftructions I have received from the Commander in chief. I fhall take particular care to deliver the Right Honourable the Prefident's letter to the Rajah the firft opportunity, and fhall pay due attention to the Nabob's Kelladar agreeable to your directions. I am with refpect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moft obedient fervant,

H. HARPER.

Camp near Vellum,
7th February, 1776.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Confultations, 12th February, 1776.

Monday, 12th February, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Prefident.

George Stratton	Robert Fletcher
George Dawfon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruffell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

READ the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Harper:

To the Right Honourable the Prefident and Council of Fort St. George.

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I BEG leave to inform you, that Mahomed Nafeph Khan, the Nabob's Kelladar, and at prefent the commanding officer at Tanjore, waited on me yefterday evening, to whom I delivered the order which accompanied your's of the fecond inftant. He acquainted me that all the troops marched out of the garrifon that morning, except one battalion of Seapoys and three companies of his own people, who always attended him; I therefore fhall march early in the morning to take poffeffion of the fort. I am, with the greateft refpect,

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moft obedient fervant,

H. HARPER.

Camp near Vellum,
8th February, 1776.

The

The Right Honourable the Preſident recommends to the Board, that a preſent and public thanks be given to the Nabob for the late inſtance of his friendſhip and attachment to the Eaſt-India Company; and obſerves, that the circumſtances in which the Rajah of Tanjore was differed very much from what was ſuppoſed in England, where it was imagined the Rajah was priſoner in Trichinopoly, garriſoned by the Company's forces, inſtead of being at Tanjore, where we had no troops, and the Nabob had a garriſon of more than 8000 men.

Unanimouſly reſolved accordingly; and the warehouſe-keepers are therefore directed to ſee what the Company's warehouſes can furniſh proper for the occaſion.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Conſultations, 14th February, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

Wedneſday, 14th February, 1776.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Preſident.

George Stratton	Robert Fletcher
George Dawſon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

READ the following letter, which was received laſt night from Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

To the Right Honourable the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George.

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I HAVE the pleaſure to inform you, that I took poſſeſſion of the fort of Tanjore this morning, and have quartered the troops in the large and ſmall fort in the beſt manner I could; but after all I am obliged to pitch many tents for want of quarters to accommodate

the officers, and thought it more prudent to do so than to take houses from the inhabitants. There is remaining in the fort one battalion of the Nabob's Seapoys, with three companies of the Kelladar's people, the latter of which have always attended him; in all not many more than a thousand. Mahomed Naseph Cawn, who commanded the place, delivered every thing up in the most polite manner.

After settling the troops I waited on the Rajah, and delivered him the Right Honourable the President's letter, which seemed to afford him great satisfaction.

I am with respect,

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Tanjore,
9th February, 1776.

Your most obedient Servant,

H. HARPER.

Extract of Letter from the Governor and Council of Fort St. George to the Court of Directors, dated 14th of February, 1776.

HONOURABLE,

1. Your Honours were advised, in a short letter we wrote to you by the Salisbury, that we were in hopes the Nabob would very soon after the departure of that ship put your troops in possession of the fort of Tanjore, and in so doing enable us to carry your orders by the Grenville into full execution. These hopes were founded upon the strong assurances your President received from him of his invariable attachment to the English Nation, of the just sense he had of the obligations he owed to them, and of the confidence he reposed in their justice and honour, by committing himself, his children and family, to their care and disposal; having for these ten years past lived under command of the cannon of the fort, and had no wish ever to remove. That if he had at any time been led to believe there was a distinction between the interest of the

English Nation and the English Company, it was an error he might be excused for having fallen into. That he could say much upon this subject, but determined to be silent, and to let his conduct and actions satisfy your President, that he was the same man and the same friend to the Company he before had known him. That with respect to Tanjore, he had no objection to the Company's troops taking immediate possession of the fort, being confident the Company would make no infringement upon his rights, or lessen him in the eyes of the other Indian powers: but your President apprehending that the Nabob hereby meant he should be left in possession of the Tanjore country, acquainted him that your orders were positive, and must be complied with: the Nabob hereupon expressed a desire, that the substance of those orders might be communicated to him in writing, which was accordingly done.

2. Your Honours will easily believe, that, so circumstanced, we had great satisfaction in receiving the Nabob's order to his officer commanding in Tanjore to admit an English garrison; and in consequence of this order, your troops, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, took possession of the fort of Tanjore the 9th instant.

3. Your orders to us are, that the Rajah shall be set at liberty; this has been effected: but your further orders are, that his country shall be restored to him, upon certain stipulations: here will lie some difficulty. The Nabob has involved himself so much in debt, that the produce of the whole Arcot province, for these 12 months to come, will barely pay his creditors, if our intelligence be well founded; and so considerable a sum as 5 Lacks of Pagodas due to his troops, which are very numerous, furnished him with a good argument, that it was necessary to grant assignments on the Tanjore country to a great amount, before the garrison would be prevailed upon to evacuate the fort.

4. This being the case, we must make a virtue of necessity, and let it operate to the future advantage and security of your affairs, as well as those of the Nabob and Rajah.

5. We

5. We propoſe therefore, in caſe the Nabob will agree to diſband his troops, and at no time hereafter to keep any but what are paid by the Company, that we will intercede with the Rajah for him to engage to diſcharge the amount of the aſſignments out of the produce of the Tanjore country, at ſuch times as may be conſiſtent with the ſtate thereof, provided the amount of thoſe aſſignments ſhall not exceed what we ſhall think the Tanjore country may be burthened with. We hope the Nabob will agree to this propoſition, and that the Rajah of Tanjore's ſufferings for theſe two years paſt, and the confidence he muſt now have in your juſtice, will induce him to acquieſce in ſuch meaſures as we may recommend to him.

6. We hope therefore very ſhortly to be able to adviſe your Honours, that there are no troops on the Coromandel Coaſt but what are paid by your Paymaſter, and commanded by your Officers; and that an aſſignment from the Nabob, with a part of the Tanjore revenues, not exceeding the amount of what the Rajah heretofore paid to his troops, will defray the whole expenſe of defending the Carnatic, including the Tanjore country. Your Jaghire will in this caſe be a reſerve in time of need. By this arrangement the Nabob will grow rich, and the Rajah will have as large a clear revenue as he formerly had, and be under no future apprehenſions of any attack from the Nabob.

Fort St. George, We are,
14th February, 1776. Honorable,

Your faithful humble ſervants,

Claud Ruſſell Pigot
A. Dalrymple Geo. Stratton
J. M. Stone Rob. Fletcher
Archdale Palmer Geo. Dawſon
Francis Jourdan Henry Brooke
Geo. Mackay.

His Highness the Nabob Wallaujau, Ummeer ul Hind, Omdaht ul Mulk, Ausuph ud Dowlah, Anwer ud Deen Cawn Bahauder, Zuphur Jung, Sepah Salaur, Soubahdar of the Carnatic.

To the Honourable the Chairman and Directors of affairs for the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

Honourable Gentlemen,

I AM happy in the receipt of your friendly letter of the 12th April, 1775, delivered me by Lord Pigot. I acknowledged the receipt thereof by my letter of the 14th December laſt, forwarded by his Lordſhip in the Saliſbury Indiaman, but deferring my anſwer to the next opportunity. I now trouble you my friends with that anſwer, explaining in ſome meaſure my ſituation. "You write me, that when "you obſerved that your ſervants refuſed to liſten to the ſupplications "of the Rajah, when he was ſolicitous of being reſtored to my favour "through their mediation, that indeed you confeſs yourſelves at a loſs "to conceive what motives could induce them to decline the office "of mediator between me and the Rajah, at a time when their friend"ly interpoſition might have prevented the horrors of war, and more "eſpecially as they were compelled by ſolemn ſtipulation to guaran"ty the treaty of 1762. That as Lord Pigot was perfectly acquaint"ed with your ſentiments reſpecting the proceedings of your ſervants, "and inſtructed by you to reſtore good government, and introduce "a regular ſyſtem for the management of your affairs in general, you "would not at this time trouble me with further remarks thereon. "That you are convinced that all poſſible attention will be given by "his Lordſhip and Council to my intereſt and the Company's, and "conſequently to the welfare of the Carnatic; and that you reſt ſa"tisfied that I will cordially unite with your ſervants, and readily

 "concur

" concur in every meaſure which ſhall be adopted towards the com-
" pletion of theſe juſt and honourable purpoſes."

Lord Pigot ſent me in writing an extract of the order you gave him relative to Tanjore. From the commencement of my connexion with the Company my buſineſs has been tranſacted with the Governor and Council, and I have regarded their words and writing as your's, and they have correſponded with me under the Company's ſeal, and they have written to me in their letter of the 24th of May, 1775, that they are repreſentatives of the nation.

Though your two late Governors and Council by your poſitive orders gave me their aſſiſtance fully in regard to Tanjore for ſeveral years paſt, yet your preſent Governor has brought a freſh order lately from you entirely contrary to the former ones: this perplexes me. How am I to depend on the aſſurances of your repreſentatives? I am the firſt friend to the Engliſh Nation and the Company, and I have ſpent the beſt part of my days in their friendſhip.

In all times of proſperity and adverſity, and in the battles with the Company's enemies, I have been joined with the Engliſh Nation, and I did not heſitate in offering my life and fortune and in ſacrificing my ſons in their ſervice; and I have always uſed my beſt endeavours to add to the honour, proſperity, and advantage of the Company. I hold the friendſhip of the Company in ſuch eſteem, and place my dependence ſo ſtrongly on it, that I never think any thing too dear or too good for the ſupport of it.

During my long attachment to the Company our intereſts have been ſo cloſely united, that what prejudiced the one muſt prejudice the other. All the power by which the former Subahdars of the Carnatic puniſhed their enemies, Jemmadars, Polygars, and the rebellious inhabitants and diſturbers, and reduced them to obedience, is ſupplied to

me by the friendſhip and aſſiſtance of the Company and the Engliſh Nation; for they have firmly promiſed to aſſiſt me in preſerving tranquillity in my country, and to regard my enemies as their own. I entirely depend upon this, and am therefore entitled to explain it to you, who are my aſſiſtants and friendly protectors, as well as any matters which are prejudicial to my government, honour, and the tranquillity of my country; therefore I hope you will, through your juſtice and candour, take ſuch meaſures as may ſecure my honour and reſtrain my enemies, for I am your true friend and invariable wellwiſher, and I regard your friendſhip and favour as the treaſure of my life.

You, Gentlemen, are good judges of buſineſs in your part of the world, but you cannot have ſo thorough an acquaintance with matters here as I have; therefore it is neceſſary for me to give you my opinion of the meaſures which appear moſt proper to be purſued for the tranquillity of the Carnatic, and to repreſs our mutual enemies, which I know to be your wiſh.

In my letter of the 17th of July, 1762, I wrote to your Governor and Council a ſtate of affairs from the time that the anceſtors of Tuljaujee rebelliouſly poſſeſſed themſelves of the Tanjore country. A copy of that letter I encloſe for your peruſal.

During the Subahdaree of Zulphutkar Cawn, Subahdar of the Carnatic, Tuljaujee's anceſtors having given him an obligation in writing for the payment of thirty Lacks of Rupees yearly, and for remaining under his command as his ſervants, the country was again put under their management.

During the Subahdaree of Daoud Cawn and Satullah Cawn they preſerved their obedience, and beſides ſuch tribute as was demanded of them they gave frequent preſents of large ſums of money.

During

During the Subahdaree of Aly Doſt Cawn the Zemindars of Trichinopoly and Tanjore became a little diſobedient, and he ſent his ſon Subter Aly Cawn to reduce them, who poſſeſſed himſelf of their countries, and appointed Meer Aſud Ulla Cawn his deputy in the Tanjore province, and Sheik Lutf Ulla to the command of the fort, and allowed a ſmall penſion to Purtaub Sing the father of Tuljaujee.

As Aly Doſt Cawn and Subter Aly Cawn were ſlain, Sheik Lutf Ulla delivered up the poſſeſſion of the fort to Purtaub Sing, whereby the Tanjore country remained no longer in the management of the Subahdar of the Carnatic.

In ſome time after the deceaſed Nizam ul Mulk marched from the Decan at the head of a large army, and ſent a detachment under the command of Cojah Abdullah Cawn to take Tanjore; but the Vakeels of Purtaub Sing met him, and agreed to pay a tribute of fifty Lacks of Rupees. My deceaſed father during his Subahdaree was often under the neceſſity of puniſhing him, and he obliged him to pay ſums of money, and took into his poſſeſſion Cumbeconum and other countries, and appointed his ſervant Mortuza Cawn Hamildar there.

All this I have faithfully related to you, whereby you will underſtand the manner in which the anceſtors of Tuljaujee got an eſtabliſhment in Tanjore, and the dependence in which they poſſeſſed it under the Subahdars of the Carnatic.

When I became Subahdar of the Carnatic Purtaub Sing was obedient to me and under my command, and his troops were employed in my ſervice. Seeing that the Gentlemen of the Company and the Engliſh Nation are my firm friends and aſſiſtants, I thought that my authority in taking tribute from the Zemindar of Tanjore would have been greater than that of former Subahdars; but during the wars of the French and others he ſeized the opportunity of freeing himſelf from the payment

of any tribute, and enjoyed himſelf at his eaſe. Seeing that my country was deſtroyed, and the expenſe of ſupporting the war with the French and others fell upon me, he ſhould have contributed his ſhare, as he had done in the time of former Subahdars.

After the reduction of Pondicherry the tribute was ſettled in the year 1762, but I had it not in my power to oblige him to pay the extraordinary aids as former Subahdars had done. I was of opinion that this arrangement would have prevented Purtaub Sing from promoting diſturbances, and would have determined him in obedience to me; but contrary to this he applied to Iſouf Cawn to aſſiſt him in deſtroying the tranquillity of the Carnatic; and when Iſouf Cawn became a rebel he aſſiſted him, by ſending him troops, with a number of Frenchmen who were in his ſervice, and by giving him advice and every other encouragement. After Madura was taken, and Iſouf Cawn killed, Purtaub Sing's letter to him came into my hands, of which I informed your Governor and Council in my letter of the 30th of October, 1764, a copy of which I encloſe for your peruſal.

After the death of Purtaub Sing, Tuljaujee of his own accord became his ſucceſſor, and, contrary to the rules and cuſtoms of this country, he neglected aſking my permiſſion to the ſucceſſion, nor did he do homage to me as was his duty. The gentlemen of the Company know very well, that when any Zemindar in Bengal and Bahar, or in Chicacole, Rajamundry, and other countries, dies, his ſon cannot ſucceed him without the Company's permiſſion. Upon this ſubject I beg leave to recal to the memory of my friends the inſtance of the Rajah of Banaras, a more powerful Zemindar than Tuljaujee, and dependent upon the Nabob of Oud in the ſame manner as Tuljaujee is on me. On the death of the late Bulwantſing, his ſon Chietſing did not enjoy the Zemindary till he had obtained the confirmation of it from Sujah ul Dowlah, for which he paid a large ſum of money to that Nabob, and agreed to increaſe his annual tribute

to him. Of all this you have been informed by the letters of your servants. Sujah ul Dowlah was not, like me or my father, the ancient friend of the Company, but an enemy, who had been a few years before in arms against them. Therefore, according to the custom of this country, of which I have given an example, Tuljaujee was not entitled to the succession without my confirmation, nor yet to the protection of the guarantee, which was only for his father.

When Hyder Aly Cawn invaded the Carnatic, the Governor and Council and I repeatedly wrote to Tuljaujee to send his troops to join our's, but he paid not the least attention. A copy of one of the Governor's letters is enclosed. He shewed no honours to Mr. Ardley, second in Council at Fort St. George, and to Seid Machdoon Aly Cawn, who were jointly deputed to him to require his assistance; and in the beginning of the war with Hyder he sent only a few of his troops to join Colonel Wood; and though the Colonel repeatedly wrote to him to send money for the support of his troops he did not send any; therefore the Colonel was obliged to supply them out of his own pocket, and when he had no more money to supply them with they left him. Tuljaujee yet owes the money that the Colonel advanced to his troops. Besides all this he sent his Vakeel to Hyder, and formed a connexion with him, and gave him great assistance, by sending him money, elephants, horses, dresses, jewels, provisions, &c. which enabled him to ravage the Carnatic at his pleasure; he advanced even near Fort St. George, and concluded a treaty with authority.

I have enclosed you copies of Tuljaujee's letters to Hyder Aly Cawn, in regard to sending him money and other supplies, and Hyder's answers, advising him not to pay tribute to me, and offering to support him. After Hyder's war was at an end in this country, Tuljaujee, depending upon his assistance, refused to pay the tribute, and

gave no attention to your reprefentatives' letters and mine on that fubject, but, contrary to all rules of fubmiffion, marched his army againft the Marawar and other countries, who are my tributaries and dependent upon Trichinopoly; and though the Governor and Council and I forbid him this proceeding, he was too proud and haughty to mind us, but took forcibly from thofe countries their money, jewels, and elephants, and then returned to Tanjore. Although the Governor and Council and I wrote to him to reftore the things taken from the Marawar countries, &c. and to fubmit to me and pay my tribute, it had no effect, but he prepared for war.

Governor Dupré, who went to Purtaub Sing at Tanjore in the year 1762 to fettle the guarantee, was in his government, fenfible of the bad conduct of the Rajah, and according to the advice of Mr. Haftings, (who was at that time fecond in Council at Fort St. George, and in whom you now place your confidence, and have appointed Governor-General to all your fettlements in Hindoftan) and other Counfellors, who were alfo fenfible of his bad conduct and of my rights, thought proper to affift me in punifhing him, and for that purpofe employed the Company's troops, under the command of General Smith, in the year 1771, according to your orders contained in your letter of the 17th March 1769 to Governor Dupré. The paragraph is word for word as follows;

" It appears moft unreafonable to us, that the Rajah of Tanjore
" fhould hold poffeffion of the moft fruitful part of the country, which
" can alone fupply our armies with fubfiftence, and not contribute to
" the defence of the Carnatic. We obferve the Nabob makes very
" earneft reprefentations to you on this fubject in his letter entered in
" the book of Country Correfpondence, wherein he takes notice, that
" the Zemindars of the Carnatic have been fupported, and their country
" preferved to them, by the operations of our forces employed in his
" caufe; and that nothing was more notorious, than that three former

" Princes

" Princes of the Carnatic had received from the Tanjore Rajah 70, " 80, nay even 100 Lacks of Rupees at a time. That to the preceding " Nizam he had paid a contribution of 50 Lacks; and the present, if he " had met with any succefs againſt our army, would not have been " content with leſs than a Crore of Rupees from this Rajah. How " juſt then does it appear that he ſhould be made to pay ſome part of " the expenſe of theſe meaſures, to which he owes his ſecurity and " the peace of his country? We therefore enjoin you to give the " Nabob ſuch ſupport in his pretenſions on the Rajah of Tanjore as " may be effectual; and if the Rajah refuſes to contribute a juſt pro- " portion to the expenſe of the war, you are then to purſue ſuch " meaſures as the Nabob may think conſiſtent with the juſtice and " dignity of his government."

Before the troops marched from Madras or from Trichinopoſy, we ſent admonitions to Tuljaujee, recommending it to him to ſubmit to me and diſcharge the tribute; but he was too proud to attend to them, and ſent harſh and diſreſpectful anſwers, and treated diſreſpectfully Seid Machdoon Aly Cawn, my Ambaſſador, and ordered him out of his preſence; and before General Smith and my Son Omdat ul Omrah Bahauder marched from Trichinopoly, he took the field with his troops and prepared for battle, and oppoſed our army at the diſtance of three or four coſs from Tanjore, and ſeveral times cut off their proviſions. After the defeat of his troops, and the ſiege of the fort was carrying on, where many of the Company's troops and mine were killed, Tuljaujee repented, and ſent meſſages offering to diſcharge the tribute due, and to pay it in future, as was cuſtomary to former Subahdars, as alſo the expenſe of our army on the expedition; he likewiſe made over ſome diſtricts belonging to his country till theſe ſums ſhould be diſ- charged.

It was my intention only to take tribute from him, and that he ſhould ſubmit to me, that my country might enjoy tranquillity; and

after he had entered into a solemn engagement in writing to that effect, I sent orders to the army to raise the siege. On the 17th Rajub 1185 Hegira, or 26th of October, 1771, peace was concluded, and the Company's troops and mine returned to Trichinopoly.

Tuljaujee soon broke his agreement, and prevailed on Trimuckrow, a Maratta Chief, (who was at that time with forty thousand horse in Hyder Aly Cawn's Country) by offering him large sums of money, to assist him with twenty thousand horse. Trimuckrow accordingly crossed the Gauts on the 25th Shavall, 1185 Hegira, or 3d of December 1771, and his troops plundered my Country as far as Callespauk, which is but fourteen coss from Arcot; I persuaded Trimuckrow to retire, having sent Seid Hasseim Cawn Bahauder my Ambassador to him, with large sums of money, jewels, elephants, &c.

When Tuljaujee had nothing further to expect from Trimuckrow, he sent Pandarum to Poonah to raise troops for him, and to bring him assistance from the Maratta. My agent wrote me from thence, that Pandarum had entertained ten thousand horse, and that the managers at Poonah had engaged to furnish ten thousand more for hire, and that the twenty thousand were preparing to march into the Carnatic to destroy it.

Mr. Thomas Mostyn, who was then resident at Poonah from the Government of Bombay, wrote likewise this account to the Governor and Council at Fort St. George. Tuljaujee also applied for assistance to Hyder Aly Cawn, and, without either my knowledge or that of your representatives, sold some districts of his country to the Dutch, on condition that they should assist him, and agreed to make over to them the Subah of Manargoody for the payment of such troops as they should furnish him with.

This

It is well known to every one that Tanjore has belonged to the Carnatic from the beginning, and that I am, by the bleſſing of God, lawful owner of that country. It was only by the favour and aſſiſtance of you, Gentlemen, that I got poſſeſſion of my rights, and I am thankful to you day and night. This buſineſs was carried into execution purſuant to your orders, and the approbation of your repreſentatives and the Miniſters of the King of Great-Britain, which was in fact the approbation of the whole nation.

At the end of five years you, Gentlemen, have given orders to Lord Pigot, that I ſhould return the fort and country of Tanjore to Tuljaujee; this has given me great affliction; and I am convinced that had you received a full account of this affair, and a juſt repreſentation of my rights from the Governor and Council, you would not have given ſuch orders to your ſervants. Though Lord Pigot has brought your order ſo great a diſtance, mentioning that if any civil or military ſervant ſhould obſtruct the execution of this order, or refuſe to give his aſſiſtance in it, his Lordſhip ſhould diſmiſs ſuch perſon your ſervice; yet people, to whoſe integrity and juſtice the whole world can bear witneſs, ſay, that right is on my ſide; and even his Lordſhip, in negotiating this buſineſs, ſeems ſenſible of my rights, but ſays he has got poſitive orders in his hands, and cannot avoid obeying them. His Lordſhip alſo ſays, that you were aſſured that Tuljaujee was in the fort of Trichinopoly, and had therefore given him orders that he ſhould on his arrival appoint a guard for the ſecurity of his perſon. I aſked his Lordſhip what accounts he had received here, and he told me that he had heard that Tuljaujee was at Tanjore: I then deſired his Lordſhip to obſerve from this and many other matters how differently circumſtances appeared here and in England: his Lordſhip agreed to this obſervation. Had you, Gentlemen, given orders to his Lordſhip to decide according to juſtice, after he had thoroughly informed himſelf of the true ſtate of affairs and my rights, every body here is as

well convinced as I am, that affairs would not have been carried on as they are at present. From the first establishment of the Carnatic Tanjore has been dependent upon it, and the Zemindar of that place has been always subject to the Subahdar of the Carnatic. Perceiving the enmity of Tuljaujee, I took possession of my right at a great expense, and through the favour of my friends.

This right my friends now mention in their order to be but four Lacks of Rupees yearly, and they have determined to re-instate the enemy of the Carnatic, and re-establish the government of Tanjore under firm conditions, which tend to the advantage of the Company. Is it just or right that they should intend to make conditions, and gain advantage from my subject in his present weak state? If the Company have their own advantage in view they should expect it from their old friends. It would answer their interest, and establish their reputation with the whole world, as they would not infringe the rights of their friends, and might notwithstanding attend to their own advantage. I am astonished that you should want to put this order in execution, for it will not only destroy my rights, but be hurtful to the honour and interests of me and my family, as also to the honour, justice, and interest of the Company and the English Nation, and will be prejudicial to the tranquillity of the Carnatic for ever.

His Majesty, the King of Great-Britain, has been graciously pleased to write me a letter of congratulation, wherein he mentions that my troops and the troops of the Company have been successful against my subject, the Zemindar of Tanjore. This letter was read by his Majesty's Plenipotentiary publicly in my Durbar, in the presence of all my people, and the Vakeels of the neighbouring powers; and the King of Delhi and other Kings, and all the powers of Hindostan, and the Europeans also, being convinced of my rights, wrote me letters of congratulation.

By

This will appear from the letter of the Governor-General of Batavia to me of the 26th July 1771. Tuljaujee mortgaged to the Danes ſome other diſtricts, and ſold to the French others near Caracoil, with a view of obtaining their aſſiſtance; he ſent a reſident to Pondicherry, and ſhewed great favour to the Governor of that place. His view in ſoliciting all this aſſiſtance, and in aſſembling troops, was to get poſſeſſion of the whole Carnatic, and to raiſe ſuch diſturbances as my friends and I would find very difficult to ſuppreſs.

All theſe proceedings, and your letter of the 17th March, 1769, determined the Governor and Council of Fort St. George, in order to promote the tranquillity of the Carnatic and the rights of my government, to give me aſſiſtance in taking the fort and country of Tanjore from Tuljaujee. He, in hopes of ſuccours from our enemies, (for the Dutch had then landed a thouſand Europeans, and three thouſand Malays and Seapoys, at Negapatnam) delayed acknowledging obedience to us, or entering into a negotiation with General Smith, and Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder my ſecond ſon, till the day of the ſtorm. We at laſt carried the fort, by which the interior diſturbances of the Carnatic, mentioned by you in your letter of the 4th of March 1767, are at an end.

This you ſeemed much to wiſh for. Tuljaujee has ever ſince lived in his palace in proper honour and dignity, and all his family are continued with him as formerly; and there is no alteration in his or his family's table. All his friends, Mootaſuddies, Bramins, Faquiers, Pagodas, Choultries, &c. are kept up as during his government. From this repreſentation, every circumſtance of which is founded upon truth, my beſt friends will ſee that there was the greateſt neceſſity for reducing the power of Tuljaujee, and that what has been done has been done with juſtice, and for the good of the Company and the Carnatic.

It is now five years since Governor Dupré gave positive orders to take the fort of Tanjore, and employed the Company's troops for that purpose; and it is near three years that Tanjore has been taken, as has been known to the Company at home, but they have been silent on that subject.

I have paid large sums of money to the Europeans of other nations, which they demanded from Tuljaujee for the release of some districts which he had sold to them, as I have already related; besides I paid considerable sums of money which he owed to individuals and to his army, as also the expense of the Company's army and mine; and I have prevented the Marattas from coming into this Country, by buying them off with a large sum of money. I have borrowed considerable sums from English Gentlemen, who lent them to promote the capture of Tanjore; I have besides borrowed from the people of the Country large sums of money, which I expended in improving it, in repairing the water-courses, the mounds, and the fortifications, which last was done by Major Stephens a Company's Engineer.

I have made great advances to the inhabitants towards buying bullocks and seed grain, and I have borrowed paddy seed from the country people &c. and given it to the inhabitants, which has made the Tanjore country flourish more than in Tuljaujee's time. I have consented to paying three additional battalions of Seapoys out of the revenues of the Tanjore country only. I have paid considerable prize-money to the army for their trouble and fatigue and other expenses for provisions, &c. and for the Zemindars and Collaries, who came to my assistance in great numbers. It would be very tedious to write all the expenses attending these two expeditions. The money due to those who lent it to promote the capture of the Tanjore country, depending upon my honour, lies upon me, and my money depends upon the revenues of that Country.

It

By this change in affairs your juſtice will appear in an unfavourable light, and my rights will be greatly infringed. I hope through your friendſhip and aſſiſtance to increaſe my honours and authority; you have always increaſed them. I therefore truſt that you will ſo act, that my character and conſequence may not be leſſened in the eyes of other powers; and that you will do juſtice to your old friend, who has ſpent his youth in your friendſhip, and whoſe chief deſire of power is to teſtify his regard to you. He now waits in expectation of your juſtice.

You mention in your orders that you are guarantees to the treaty of 1762. That treaty ſo guarantied was with Purtaub Sing only. Even Purtaub Sing, by his bad conduct (as appears by a letter of his in my poſſeſſion) as I have before-mentioned, did not merit the protection of the ſaid guarantee. You may beſides conſider, if (ſuppoſing Tuljaujee guarantied in 1762 as well as his father) he did not loſe all right to ſuch guarantee by his bad conduct, ſince he deſtroyed the guarantee by drawing his ſword. I too have been guarantied in my rights as lawful Nabob of the Carnatic by the whole Engliſh Nation; this I owed to your favour. By guarantee I have always underſtood a protection to a friend in his rights, and not a protection to an enemy againſt a friend.

I cannot conclude this letter without requeſting that you will depend upon what I ſay, for I open my heart to you in the greateſt ſincerity. It has been my wiſh and deſire, from the commencement of my government, that there ſhould be no other power in the country except your's and mine; in conſequence of which, with great trouble and expenſe, I releaſed the countries which Tuljaujee had ſold to the Dutch; and the diſturbances of the Tanjore country, which lies in the heart of my dominions, are through your favour at an end. There was no other road by which an enemy could enter the Carnatic but the Tanjore country. Your now re-inſtating Tuljaujee is juſt the ſame as eſtabliſhing the French in this country, becauſe when they bring their forces

here, and intend hoſtilities, Tuljaujee will provide them with bullocks, cooleys, proviſions, &c. which will much add to their ſtrength.

Your giving the revenues of the Tanjore country into the hands of Tuljaujee, is juſt furniſhing proviſions, cooleys, &c. to the French, Hyder, and the Marattas, in their diſturbances. Should it remain in my hands you will be able to drive any enemy out of this country, and it will be in my power to confine them in getting proviſions, cooleys, &c. from any part.

You will now, Gentlemen, remember, that I now foretel what is to happen. Though, by the promiſes of your repreſentatives, I was not to have a Company's garriſon in the fort of Tanjore, yet as I have been from the beginning your firm friend, and under obligations to you, and as our friendſhip has been eſtabliſhed by the loſs of my father's life, by the loſs of our fortunes and effects ſaved in a ſeries of years, and by the ſpending my youth in your alliance; and further, as it is my utmoſt wiſh that your favour and aſſiſtance ſhould be in the ſame manner continued to my poſterity, I have written to Lord Pigot of the 22d of January laſt, and 3d inſtant, and in the latter encloſed him an order to my repreſentative at Tanjore to receive your garriſon into the fort, in the ſame manner as at Trichinopoly, and encloſe you copies thereof for your peruſal.

I have deſired Lord Pigot to be pleaſed to write to you what he finds here to contradict the reports that prevailed in England, and to repreſent my firm friendſhip to you. His Lordſhip has promiſed that he will do this, and alſo recommend me to you.

As I am always your invariable friend, I humbly beg that you will be pleaſed to ſend orders to your repreſentatives not to interfere in my management of the Tanjore country. This favour will eſtabliſh me

in my right, and I ſhall be eaſed from my heavy burthen of debts. I am and ever will be thankful for your favour.

You write me, that you have heard that the diſtreſs of my creditors is very great, and that it is ſaid to be owing to their property being in my hands; and you mention this circumſtance as the moſt powerful argument to induce me to make ſpeedy proviſion for their payment; that you entertain no doubt of my honour in this reſpect, or that I will immediately attend to this ſubject: this I underſtand.

It is is my firſt duty to diſcharge my debts to my creditors, who have lent their money depending upon my honour, and I am always taking meaſures for that purpoſe. Tuljaujee in the year 1771 promiſed to pay his arrears of tribute, and gave a bond for the amount, which I aſſigned to my creditors; but as he did not pay me, I was under the neceſſity of remaining in their debt.

I am now obliged to you for your favour in reminding me of this affair, and by the bleſſing of God theſe debts ſhall ſoon be cleared off.

What can I ſay more?

Given at Chepauk,
February 12th, 1776.

At

At a Consultation,

PRESENT,

Monday, 19th February.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton — General Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawson — Henry Brooke
John Whitehill — Claud Russell
Alexander Dalrymple — John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer — Francis Jourdan
George Mackay.

THE following letter was dispatched on the 17th instant to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esq. Governor-General, &c. Council at Fort William.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

General letter to Bengal advising of the Company's orders regarding Tanjore, and of the steps in consequence.

WE have had the honour to receive your letters of the 7th and 11th of December, and the 2d and 8th January.

By the Grenville Packet to your Honour, &c. from the Court of Directors, you must have been informed that we had their special orders to set the Rajah of Tanjore at liberty, and to put an English garrison into the fort, and on certain conditions to restore him to his government.

The Rajah being a prisoner in Tanjore, and that fort garrisoned by full eight thousand of the Nabob's troops, it has taken time to prevail with the Nabob to enable us to comply with the directions we had

had received from the Company; and we hope we ſhall ſtand excuſed for not having troubled you upon this ſubject, until we could acquaint you with ſome degree of certainty how this buſineſs would end.

It is with the greateſt pleaſure that we now inform you of the Company's troops relieving thoſe of the Nabob in Tanjore the 9th inſtant; and we encloſe the Preſident's letter to the Rajah, together with his anſwer, received only this morning. We are on very friendly terms with the Nabob, who profeſſes that he will be entirely guided by our Preſident's advice. We eſteem this a good beginning, and ſhall uſe our utmoſt endeavours to carry the further orders of the Court of Directors into execution.

Our employers have been pleaſed to direct, that a committee of circuit, conſiſting of five members of our council, ſhall viſit the northern Circars; we ſhall recommend to their attention the ſtate of the Guntoor Circar, and hope you will agree with us, that it would be improper at this time to create any diſturbances in thoſe parts.

The Ankerwyke, on which ſhip Mr. Wynch embarked, ſailed the 15th inſtant, and the Hillſborough got under weigh this morning, but the wind being unfavourable, ſhe has been obliged to come to anchor again.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Fort St. George, 17th February, 1776.

Your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervants,

PIGOT, &c. Council.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore.

Read letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, acknowledging the receipt of our President's letter of the 2d inſt. expreſſing his great joy and thankfulneſs to the Company for reſtoring him to his former dignity and the throne of his anceſtors; and declaring that he ſhall chearfully reſign his concerns into the Preſident's hands, and willingly acquieſce in his determination.

From the Rajah of Tanjore to the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor.

MY LORD,

THE letter which your Lordſhip has honoured me with, and which was delivered to me by Colonel Harper, has given me a joy which no tongue is able to expreſs. Overwhelmed with the tranſport of joy, I am as one who is raiſed from the dead. When I ſeemed to be cut from all the chearing hopes of ſeeing better days, then it was that God by his over-ruling Providence turned my ſorrow into joy. Your Lordſhip has been the happy inſtrument Providence has made uſe of to reſtore me to my former dignity and the throne of my anceſtors; I ſhall therefore from henceforth look upon you as my father, and venerate you under that moſt amiable character as long as I have a being.

Convinced that whatever your Lordſhip ſhall think proper to determine or regulate will be to my real advantage, I ſhall chearfully reſign my concerns to your kind hands, and willingly acquieſce in your determination.

As by your generous regard for my happineſs, your honourable name muſt and will be had in moſt grateful remembrance by me and my

my family, ſo I hope it will be celebrated over the world. I remain with unfeigned reſpect,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's humble and grateful ſervant.

At a Conſultation,

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Preſident. Monday, 11th March, 1776.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawſon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

THE Right Honourable the Preſident lays before the Board the following letter received from the Nabob, together with the anſwer he had ſent him in conſequence.

Tranſlation of a Letter from his Highneſs to Lord Pigot, dated the 26th February, 1776.

Letter from the Nabob declining to ſend an account of the orders on the Tanjore country, and requeſting to wait for the Company's further commands.

BEFORE the reduction of Tanjore I was not much loaded with debt, but there remained a little due to my old creditors, as I was obliged to pay ten Lacks of Pagodas on account of Myſore.

On the firſt expedition againſt Tanjore my eldeſt ſon ſettled matters there, and took agreements for the payment of money, which I aſſigned to my creditors; but Tuljaujee was totally deficient in the pay-

ment, whereby they ſuffered delay. For this reaſon, and the other bad conduct of Tuljaujee, which I have mentioned in my former letters, we were induced to ſend the Company's troops and mine to take Tanjore. From Arcot, Nellore, Trichinopoly, Tinnevelly, and from all my countries, fighting people were aſſembled, and proviſions, bullocks, ſheep, &c. in great quantities, for the uſe of the army, were provided for this expedition.

In carrying on this buſineſs I contracted heavy debts, by raiſing troops for the defence of the forts and countries, which were weakened by the old troops being drawn from them to go againſt Tanjore; by paying batta to the army, and to thoſe who brought aſſiſtance; by paying prize-money to the army on both expeditions, and other expenſes; and by paying money to the Dutch to releaſe the diſtricts poſſeſſed by them. As all the countries belong to me, I gave orders on ſuch places as I thought proper for the payment of the ſaid debts, and the pay of the troops, &c. Now your Lordſhip requires a particular account of the orders I gave on Tanjore. If I give you only an account of the orders on that country, and the debts that lie upon me and my country for the two expeditions againſt Tanjore, and the money paid to the Dutch will be loſt. In this caſe how am I to write you only an account of the orders given on the Tanjore country? ſhould any hindrance happen in the affairs of that country, the clamours of my creditors and my troops will be very loud; conſidering which, I beg your Lordſhip to excuſe me on this ſubject (as I deſired in my letter of the 29th Zecaud or 22d January laſt) till you receive a further order from the Company; I now again beg the ſame favour. I have chearfully received the garriſon of my friends in the fort of Tanjore, and I am ready, till the further orders arrive, to increaſe Tuljaujee's allowance, and to pay the expenſe of the garriſon in any manner you think proper and may write me.

If Tuljaujee had not obliged me to undertake thoſe two expeditions againſt Tanjore, I ſhould by this time have been maſter of much treaſure.

ſure. I took Tanjore, thinking that my honour, the honour of the King of Great-Britain, the Company, and the Engliſh Nation, and of the Governor and Council, was concerned, and that it was my right to take it. Had I foreſeen the difficulties that attend this buſineſs before we took Tanjore, though the tranquillity of the Carnatic was much diſturbed, and our intereſt ſuffer by it, we could not have had any thing to do with it. I am therefore under great ſorrow and uneaſineſs, and put myſelf under your protection. It is worthy of your long friendſhip that you ſhould take by the hand your old friend, who is ſinking in the whirlpool, and give him protection.

To the Nabob.

I HAVE received your Highneſs's letter of the 26th February, in which your repreſent to me the very great diſtreſs of your finances, by the expenſes you have incurred on account of the Tanjore expeditions; turn your own thoughts towards a remedy. I can aſſure you, that no aſſiſtance, which is conſiſtent with the orders of my maſters, ſhall be omitted on my part to relieve you from every diſtreſs.

Letter to the Nabob in reply.

The orders I have received from the Company are, "To reſtore the "country of Tanjore to the Rajah;" but ſuch has been my ſolicitude to do every thing in concert with your Highneſs, that this is yet unexecuted, notwithſtanding an Engliſh garriſon has been almoſt a month in Tanjore.

Humanity to the wretched inhabitants, diſtreſſed beyond meaſure by the miſerable ſtate in which the country now remains, without any eſtabliſhed government either of your Highneſs or the Rajah; juſtice to the Rajah, who is ſcarcely better than a priſoner ſtill, and attention to the public honour, make it abſolutely neceſſary to carry into immediate effect the orders of the Company.

I must therefore beg leave to repeat my request, that you will give an order, directed to all your Amuldars, &c. in the Tanjore country, to relinquish all manner of authority when called upon by me so to do, and to account with such persons as I may name for all sums collected in the Tanjore country from the day I had the honour to deliver the Company's letter to your Highness.

I beg also that you will be pleased to give me the amount of the orders you have given on the Tanjore country.

I have the honour to be,

Your Highness's

most obedient humble Servant,

PIGOT.

Fort St. George,
6th March, 1776.

Friday, 22d March

At a Consultation. Present as before.

The President lays before the Board a letter he has received from the Nabob, dated the 19th instant, as entered hereafter, together with the draft of his answer to that letter, which meeting with the approbation of the Board, he is desired to send the same to the Nabob.

From the Nabob, dated and received 19th March, 1776.

Letter from the Nabob, urging his claims to Tanjore, and representing his distress if the Company's orders be executed.

THE letter you sent me, of date the 6th instant, in reply to my memorandum of the 10th, I have received, and understood the contents. I am obliged to you for what you express with regard to your observing the distress of my finances, my turning my thoughts towards a remedy, and your affording me every assistance, that is consistent with the orders of your masters, to relieve me from every kind of difficulty. If you, Sir,

Sir, in oppofition to the reprefentations and entreaties which I have written to yourfelf and the Company relative to the dependencies of Tanjore, are defirous of giving it to the Rajah, to what remedy fhall I turn my thoughts? Believe me it has not been by a needlefs expenfe in fuperfluous fhow and parade, that I have fallen under the burthen of a debt; but formerly, in the national wars, in the expenfes of Madras, and the taking of Pondicherry; on occafion of the Madura expedition, and the war with the Nizam, which happened in confequence of feizing the Circars; and after that from the taking the Dewannee of the Myfore country, the war waged againft it, and the defraying the expenfes of my own forces as well as the Company's therein; and finally from the incurfion of Hyder Ally Cawn, in confequence of that, and his laying wafte my country according to his pleafure; none of which occurrences owed their rife to me, as I have written in mine of the 30th of January, 1770. My falling under a penalty of ten Lacks of Pagodas for the Myfore war alfo increafed my debts, and all thefe expenfes have been incurred in order to affift my friends. I am however happy in the thought I have paid a great part of thofe fums, and but very little remains. If the above-mentioned difturbances had not occurred, I had not been incumbered with debts; and as for that which I was under a neceffity of contracting for the taking of Tanjore, it was with a view to the tranquillity of the Carnatic, and the eafe and welfare of my people in general. For otherwife what diforders would there not have arifen in this country from the ill conduct of Tuljaujee, and his foliciting fuccour from the Marattas, the Dutch, &c. as I have explained in my letter of the 22d January laft, and in my memorandum dated the 26th of February? The Tanjore debt I can eafily difcharge, provided I be undifturbed in the management of the revenues of that country.

You write, that the orders you have received from the Company are to reftore the country of Tanjore to Tuljaujee; but that you have fuch a defire of doing things in union with me, that this has not yet been put in execution, though an Englifh garrifon has been near a month in Tanjore:

Tanjore: this I have underſtood. I conſider the Company as my warm friends, inaſmuch as it is by their favour and aſſiſtance, which I have always experienced in my affairs, that I have got a power over that which is my right, and this I continually acknowledge with gratitude. Hence I did not heſitate to receive a garriſon of my beſt friends into the fort of Tanjore by way of ſecurity, as in other forts, that there might be a ſtrong proof of my firm friendſhip for the Company. If however, notwithſtanding this, any one ſhall think, that in putting the fort under the protection of the Company's people, agreeing to defray the expenſes of the garriſon, in giving a proper Jaghire to Tuljaujee, as I have written of mine of the 22d of January, I have not applied myſelf to execute the Company's pleaſure, it is my misfortune. Now ſeeing that by my bad fortune the Company have not had a complete and perfect account of the ſtate of the caſe, and were ſtill ſo unacquainted with it as certainly to believe Tuljaujee was in Trichinopoly, whenever the King of Great-Britain, the Parliament, and the Company, ſhall underſtand the real and certain ſtate of the affair, they will approve of the conduct of their ally and friend in this country, in not agreeing to give his conſent to the diſhonour of himſelf, and the ruin of the future intereſts of the Company and the Engliſh Nation, by ſetting up a ſubject of his in the Carnatic, which muſt prove the ſource of a variety of miſchiefs and diſturbances. I have written all my circumſtances and my right to my favourers the Company; I have reminded them of their former order relative to Tanjore; I do not expect from them, who are men of reaſon and juſtice, a deprivation of my right; and I have accordingly written you in mine of the 22d of January laſt, that you do not interfere in the management of the diſtricts of Tanjore, which is my right, till an anſwer from the Company ſhall arrive. Why ſhould I not write to you my friend the injury that my affairs will ſuffer by a compliance with your deſires; for it is not only the loſs of the Tanjore Country I muſt ſuſtain, but all the concerns of my government will be ruined by it; I therefore write you again, with abundance of entreaty, in the name of the King of Great-Britain, the Nation, the Parliament, and the Company, that you do not interfere in the management of the country of Tanjore

till

till an anſwer arrives from the Company. And you will pleaſe to attend to the preſervation of the honour of an old and true friend of the Engliſh Nation, who have never found ſuch a friend in Hindoſtan. By ſhewing me this favour, and by permitting me to make known to the Company how much their intereſts are concerned in the confirmation of my rights, you will not only act a candid part in reſpect of me, but will gain the applauſe of the King of Great-Britain and your Nation. For by the favour of heaven I am the firſt Prince in Hindoſtan; and the King of Great-Britain and the Engliſh Nation have pledged their honour for my protection and the preſervation of my rights, and are my guarantee.

You write, that pity towards the diſtreſſed inhabitants, who, on account of the preſent confuſed ſtate of that country, having no regular Government, either on the part of me or the Rajah, are miſerably ſituated, candour towards Tuljaujee, who may be ſaid to be yet a priſoner, and public faith, require that the Company's orders be put in execution without delay: this I have underſtood.—As to the diſtreſſed ſituation of the inhabitants of the Tanjore country, and their diſperſion, I muſt acquaint you, that before ever Tanjore came into my poſſeſſion, numbers of the inhabitants were diſperſed by reaſon of the various oppreſſions of Tuljaujee, in which no tyrant ever exceeded him; after which he ſeized their cattle and effects, and deſtroyed their houſes, in hopes of finding hidden treaſure in them; neither did he for years repair the water-courſes, the banks, or the reſervoirs. But after the taking Tanjore, by ſending my ſecond ſon Umeer ul Omrah Behauder, by making conſiderable advances to the inhabitants, by ſupplying them with cattle for the plough, and engaging to give them their ſhares, I ſo conciliated their minds, repairing at the ſame time in an ample manner the water-courſes and banks, that the inhabitants that had fled to Malavar, Myſore, and other parts, returned and ſettled again. At that very time the Cavery overflowed its banks in ſuch a manner as had not been known for ninety years before, inſomuch that the cultivation was entirely deſtroyed by the water, and the ducts and banks were all broken up;

 upon

upon this Umeer ul Omrah Behauder went himſelf upon the banks, and made a ſecond time advances in money, and lived entirely in his tents, repaired in the completeſt manner all the watercourſes and banks, and made a ſecond time advances in money, and ſeed grain, to the huſbandmen, who by this means ſuffered no loſs, and carried their agriculture again beyond what it had been in Tuljaujee's time; and this the whole world is acquainted with. Now that the grain is ripe and ready, and the time of their profit is come, as they are now to give me my ſhare and take their own to themſelves, the reaſon of their diſperſion is plain and evident; to wit, that they muſt be alarmed with the apprehenſion of Tuljaujee's former oppreſſion being renewed. Tuljaujee, when under the power of my ſervants, lived more at his eaſe than he had done during his own Government; at preſent alſo, agreeable to your pleaſure, there is no ſcantineſs in his expenſes, and from the time of the Company's garriſon entering Tanjore he is in the power of the Company's people.

You write, that you again requeſt of me an order, directed to all my Amuldars, &c. in the Tanjore country, to relinquiſh all manner of authority in caſe they are required by you ſo to do, and to account with the perſons you ſhall name for all ſums collected ſince the day I received the Company's letter; and you alſo deſire to know the amount of the orders on the Tanjore Country: this I have apprehended from the firſt conference I have had with you on this ſubject 'till now; I have told you my pleaſure in reſpect to my right to the Tanjore country, which is a part of the Carnatic, in one uniform manner, and I have entreated you in the ſame manner in the above letter.

What ſhould I, &c.

To the Nabob.

Letter to the Nabob in reply.

I have had the honour to receive your Highneſs's letter dated the 19th inſtant, and after having paid the moſt reſpectful attention to every argument you have pleaſed to enforce, I find myſelf obliged to obſerve,

that the businefs of Tanjore has been well deliberated by my mafters, has been by them condemned, and their orders in confequence were not delivered to me till after they had been laid before his Majefty's Minifters for their approval.

Let me entreat your Highnefs to call to your remembrance the difficulties you were able to encounter when your friends power was united to your own; remember that union was in the caufe of juftice, and in that caufe only can they be united. What confequences may attend *even the appearance* of a difunion!

My mafters gave you their fupport when you were alike deftitute of money and power; they will continue their fupport to you, but the public faith is pledged to the Rajah of Tanjore as well as to your Highnefs; and the orders to me are, " That the country of Tanjore fhall be again put into the poffeffion of the Rajah."

What words fhall I ufe to induce your Highnefs to make this your own act, if all the arguments I have been able to fuggeft have not had their proper force? And with what an aching heart, after acting in concert with you through fo many difficulties, fhall I now carry the Company's orders into effect by their authority alone! The world will juftify me in the obedience I fhew to the commands of my mafters; and having never failed in the part of friendfhip, in refpect and in propriety of behaviour towards you, I truft I fhall now ftand excufed, after the preffing manner I have fo often urged your Highnefs to do that which is right and proper, as well refpecting your intereft as your dignity.

I have the honour to be,

Your Highnefs's moft obedient

Fort St. George,
22d March, 1776.

and moft humble Servant,

PIGOT.

At

Monday 25th March.

At a Consultation. Present as before.

Minute of the President, representing the necessity of executing the Company's orders, and proposing to proceed to Tanjore for that purpose.

THE President judging from this letter of the Nabob's, entered in last consultation, that he will not give his consent to our carrying into execution the orders of the Company respecting Tanjore, and the state of the crops in that country not admitting of any further delay; he, the President, has ordered palanqueen boys on the road, and with the approbation of the Board will set out for Tanjore the 30th March, to carry the orders of the Company into effect, by placing the Rajah of Tanjore in the full possession and management of the country.

The safety of Tanjore, and the security of the Rajah and his family, appearing to make it necessary, not only that an English garrison should be in the fort, but that the country also be protected by the Company's troops;

Resolved, therefore, to send another battalion of Seapoys to the southward, the better to enable the Rajah of Tanjore to collect in his revenues, if this measure proves agreeable to him.

The safety of the Carnatic depends upon a well disciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up; the particular safety and quiet of every individual seems to require that no other force should be kept up; and these considerations induce the Board to wish that the Rajah of Tanjore may join them in their endeavours to place the country in this situation.

Motion in consequence.

The President then moves the following question:

" Whether it is proper and necessary for him to go to Tanjore, for the reason set forth in this minute."

Agreed unanimously.

Agreed unanimously in the affirmative.

Second

Second motion from the Prefident.

Second Motion—The Governor to take whomfoever he chufes to Tanjore.

Refolved,

"That the Governor may take whatfoever fervants of the Company
"he chufes with him to Tanjore, either civil or military."

Carried in the affirmative.

Carried for the motion. Meffrs. Mackay and Jourdan againft the motion.

Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan againft the motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher's minute.

Sir Robert Fletcher has no objection to the Governor's carrying any fervants of the Company with him to Tanjore as affiftants, provided they are not Members of this Board.

Refolution refpecting the authority of the Governor in any fort, factory, or fettlement.

The Commiffion of Government as well as that of the Commander in Chief being now read;

Refolved,

"That in virtue of that Commiffion of Government, the Governor
"holds the fame authority when prefent in any fort, factory, or
"fettlement under this Prefidency, that he does when prefent in Fort
"St. George."

Carried in the affirmative.

Meffrs. Mackay and Jourdan againft the refolution.

Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan againft the refolution.

Sir Robert Fletcher's minute againft the refolution.

Sir Robert Fletcher. I think it contrary to the conftitution of the fervice, and fubverfive of the powers and authority of the Commander in Chief of the army, fet forth in his commiffion, that the Governor of Fort St. George fhould hold any military command out of the garrifon of Fort St. George, excepting over his own guard, which is to attend him agreeably to the Company's late orders.

Refolved,

"That fuch guard as the Governor thinks neceffary fhall attend him."

Sir

Sir Robert Fletcher's motion for a deputation from the Board.

Sir Robert Fletcher thinks that his Lordſhip ought not to go without a deputation from the Board; he therefore moves,

" That at leaſt two Members of the Council be joined with the Pre-
" ſident in a deputation."

Meſſrs. Mackay, Jourdan, and Palmer, for the motion. Carried againſt the motion.

Mr. Mackay, Mr. Jourdan, and Mr. Palmer, for the motion.

Carried in the negative by a majority of the Board.

Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan will give their reaſons for the Votes they have given.

Sir Robert Fletcher diſſents from the aforegoing reſolution, and will give his reaſons in writing.

Ordered,
That the Governor be furniſhed with ſuch parts of the laſt letters from England as relate to Tanjore.

In conſequence of the aforegoing reſolutions the following letter is now wrote to Colonel Harper.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

Col. Harper ordered to put himſelf under the command of Lord Pigot in Tanjore.

SIR,

You are hereby directed, on the arrival of the Right Honourable Lord Pigot at Tanjore, to put yourſelf under his command, and follow all ſuch orders as you ſhall from time to time receive from him.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George,
25th March, 1776.

Your moſt humble ſervants,

PIGOT, &c. Council.

Sir Robert Fletcher objects to the above letter.

At

At a Consultation. Present as before.

Thursday, 28th March.

THE President lays before the Board the following letter which he has received from the Nabob, together with his answer in consequence.

From the NABOB, *dated the 25th March*, 1776.

Received Ditto —— Ditto —— Ditto.

Letter from the Nabob, in reply to the President's letter of the 22d inst. continuing to urge his former arguments against delivering up the country of Tanjore.

I Have received your favour of the 22d instant, and been made acquainted with its contents. You say, that the business of Tanjore had been well deliberated by your masters, and that their orders were not delivered to you till they had been laid before his Majesty's Ministers for their approval. In my letter to you of the 22d January last, I gave you a very circumstantial account of the bad conduct of Tuljaujee, of his connexion with Hyder Ally Cawn and the Marattas, and his selling districts to the Dutch and other nations, with a view of supporting his independence by their assistance; all which were detrimental to my honour and the peace of the Carnatic.* How then could the Directors give you such orders? If, after being fully informed of all these particulars, they had made this demand from their old friend and ally, I should have been convinced, that it was the result of a mature deliberation and a knowledge of facts; but this had not been the case. If the Company are not made acquainted by their agents abroad of the transactions that happen here, how is it in their power to lay an account of them before his Majesty's Ministers for their approbation?

* This letter has not yet reached the Directors, by which they could have been informed, that Tuljaujee had no right to act in the manner he did.

You say that you are determined to execute the orders your masters have intrusted you with relative to Tanjore. I have already wrote to them on this subject, and rely upon their equity and justice for the determination of it. What I have to request of you is, that you will

not

not interfere, or act in any manner which may be detrimental to my affairs in the Tanjore country, till an anſwer is received from Europe. —The revenues of that country have been made over to thoſe perſons who lent me money on account of the expedition againſt that place.

You entreat of me to call to my remembrance the difficulties I was able to encounter when my friends power was united to my own; you deſire me to remember, that union was in the cauſe of juſtice, and that in that cauſe only they can be united; and you beg of me to reflect what conſequences may attend even the appearance of a diſunion. I do remember that my father aſſiſted the Company in times of difficulty, that my friendſhip for them and the Engliſh Nation has never altered, and that I have ſhared with them both good and bad fortune. The remembrance of theſe things ever gives me pleaſure. The Company, it is true, have ever conſidered my alliance and friendſhip for them, and have favoured me with their aſſiſtance. I and my children ſhall never, as long as we are eſtabliſhed in this country, forget our obligations to them; and we ſhall on our part give them all the aſſiſtance in our power. The friendſhip ſhewn me by the Company and the Engliſh Nation totally overcomes me; my heart is full of the ſenſe of the obligations I am under to them, and the reliance on their future favours. What ideas can I then form of the bad conſequences which may attend the appearance of a diſunion between us? Ever ſince the beginning of my alliance with the Company, the fame of our mutual friendſhip has been ſo univerſally eſtabliſhed that nothing can deſtroy it.

You ſay, "Your maſters gave me their ſupport when I was alike deſtitute of money and of power; that they will continue their ſupport to me, but that the public faith has been pledged to the Rajah as well as to me; and that your orders are, that the country of Tanjore ſhall be again put into the poſſeſſion of the Rajah." It is very certain the Company did grant me their aſſiſtance at a time I had expended all

all my treaſures and power in their ſupport. I and my children acknowledge our obligations to them for it, and ſtill hope for the continuance of their friendſhip, which they have ſolemnly promiſed in their letters to me. I depend likewiſe on the aſſurances of ſupport made to me by the King of Great-Britain under his hand, wherein he informs me, that I am one of thoſe included in a treaty amongſt other crowned heads. This has alſo been confirmed to me by his Majeſty's Plenipotentaries, who had orders from him to do ſo. In my letter of the 22d January laſt I told you, that Purtaub Sing had forfeited his right to the guarantee, and that his ſon Tuljaujee never could plead a right to that treaty. As to that part of your's where you mention your orders to put him in poſſeſſion of the Tanjore country, it has been fully anſwered in the firſt paragraph of this letter.

You ſay, "That if all the arguments you have been able to ſuggeſt have not had their proper force, that you know not what words to make uſe of to induce me to make this my own act; and you add, with what aching heart ſhall you be obliged, after acting with me through ſo many difficulties, to carry the Company's orders into execution by their authority *alone*." I am really at a loſs to anſwer this, after having laid before you, as I have done, the diſgrace and loſs which muſt be the conſequence of my complying with your requeſt, and intreated you in the name of the King and Parliament of Great-Britain, the Engliſh Nation, and the Company, to wait till an anſwer is received from Europe before you put your orders into execution. I know not how I am to make you ſenſible of the ſorrows that afflict my heart.

You conclude by ſaying, "The world will juſtify you in the obedience you ſhew to the commands of your maſters; and that having never failed in the part of friendſhip, reſpect, or propriety of behaviour towards me, you truſt you ſhall now ſtand excuſed, after the preſſing

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manner you have ſo often urged me to do that which is right and proper, as well reſpecting my intereſts as my dignity."

When I conſider the juſtice and upright diſpoſition of the Engliſh Nation, I am led to hope, that as long as you, my friend, do not act in any way contrary to juſtice, or attack the rights of an old friend of the Company, and do not diſtreſs an ally of the King of Great-Britain; but, on the contrary, ſhall preſerve my right and honour, which may be conſidered as thoſe of your King and Nation; I ſay I am led to hope your conduct will ſtand excuſed before them.

Since the aſſurances the King of Great-Britain and the Company have made to ſupport and defend me are well known to all Princes of Hindoſtan, your preſerving their good fame in this reſpect will be the ſource of new honour and dignity to you; I hope therefore you will be ſo kind as ever to conſider me in the ſame light of a friend to the Company.

What can I ſay more?

To the Nabob.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

Letter to the Nabob, in reply to the above.

THE honour I have in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 25th, gives me another opportunity of expreſſing my deſire to execute the orders of the Company as comformable to your wiſhes as the faith of my nation and my duty to my employers will admit.

I am, with the greateſt reſpect and eſteem,

Your Highneſs's moſt obliged and obedient humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
27th March, 1776. PIGOT.

Since reading the aforegoing the following letter has been received from the Nabob.

From the Nabob, dated 28th March, 1776.

Received Ditto — — Ditto —— Ditto.

I RECEIVED your letter of the 27th inst. which I have answered already, and given you every argument I could suggest in my favour. I now once more beg leave to repeat, that I can never give up what is my right; but as my whole dependence is upon the English Nation and Company, whom I look upon as my best friends, I consent to set apart, after discharging the debt I have contracted, and paying the troops garrisoned, besides the other necessary expenses of Government, whatever overplus may arise from the collections in the Tanjore country, which shall remain untouched till an answer is received from Europe. The difference between your request and mine is this; you insist on executing the Company's orders forcibly and against my consent; whereas I am willing to wait till an answer is received from them before I give it up. You will, I hope, listen to the request of an old friend.

From the Nabob. He persists in refusing to resign the country of Tanjore till further orders arrive from the Company.

What shall I say more?

At a Consultation. Present as before.

Friday, 29th March.

MR. MACKAY, Mr. Jourdan, Mr. Palmer, and Sir Robert Fletcher, now deliver in the following dissents to the resolutions of Council, Monday the 25th instant.

Mr. Mackay's minute and dissent to the resolutions on the questions put by the President last consultation.

The following are my reasons for the votes I gave on the several questions put by the President to the Members of the Board at the last consultation.

I assented

I aſſented to the firſt queſtion, "*That it was proper and neceſ-*
"*ſary the Preſident ſhould go to Tanjore to carry the orders of the Court of*
"*Directors into execution, by putting the Rajah in poſſeſſion of his country,*"
in hopes that another queſtion would be carried in the affirmative; viz. *that a deputation from the Council would accompany him*, and I explained myſelf at the Board. I thought that a buſineſs of ſo much importance, as taking a country of about a million ſterling a year from the Nabob, and giving it to the Rajah, required ſuch a deputation; and as a military force might be neceſſary to put the Rajah in poſſeſſion, and the principal part of the treaty to be made with him was millitary arrangement, I was of opinion, that the military Commander in Chief ought to be a member of that deputation. Had the Court of Directors judged it neceſſary to leave the management of this buſineſs ſolely to the Preſident, their orders I imagine would have expreſſed it; and therefore our giving him greater powers than the Court of Directors have done, is in my opinion inconſiſtent with our duty to the Company, and with what we owe to ourſelves. The precedent is dangerous, and may be uſed to bad purpoſes. Could the Preſident by going alone render any eſſential ſervice to the Company which he could not do at the head of a deputation, I ſhould not have objected to ſuch extraordinary powers being given him for a time; but as I am certain he cannot, I am againſt his going without a deputation. I put my negative on the ſecond queſtion, *that the Preſident might take whatſoever ſervants of the Company either civil or military he chuſes with him to Tanjore*, becauſe it is too general, the Board having determined that the Preſident ſhall go on this ſervice. It would be abſurd to ſuppoſe that any objections could be made to his having every proper aſſiſtance; but, by their reſolution, he may if he chuſes carry with him Members of the Council, and the Commander in Chief. The firſt I think ſhould never be employed on a ſervice where they have not a ſhare in the management, nor the laſt where he does not command.

My

My objections to the third question, *That the President has the same authority when present in any fort, factory, or settlement under this Presidency, that he has in Fort St. George*, are, that it appears to me, by the late orders and regulations the President cannot have any military command out of this garrison, except over his own guard; and this, I am of opinion, was given him out of compliment to his station, and not for any military operations. By the resolutions of the Board, which comprehend Tanjore within the meaning of the words of the Commission of Government, *in any fort, factory, or settlement under this Presidency*; and by the President's being allowed to take with him such a guard as he thinks necessary to attend him, one battalion of Europeans, three battalions of Seapoys, a troop of Horse, and a company of Artillery, are put under his command. At any time hereafter, when a majority of the Board may think it proper that the President should go to any places on this Coast, whether belonging to the Company, the Nabob, or the Rajah of Tanjore, the same reasons will hold good for putting every part of the army under his command: this appears to me contrary to the orders of the Court of Directors, and to the commission they have given to their military Commander in Chief.

Mr. Jourdan's minute and dissent to the Resolutions on the Motions of the President.

I agreed to the first question, in the idea that the Right Honourable the President would have some Members of the Board added in deputation by a subsequent motion.

I objected to the second, because I thought the President ought to have applied for the particular persons, in which case I did not imagine any objection could have been made.

I explained myself in the debate touching the third question, that I thought in such places as any civil servants of the Company exercised military authority, the military authority of the Governor ought to supersede that of the Chiefs; but that in all other places, where the military authority of the Chiefs could not extend, that of the Governor could not exist, and consequently that the Governor could not exercise a

military authority in Tanjore, &c. I founded this opinion upon the orders of the Company, which confine the military powers of the Governor to Fort St. George, and that of the Chiefs to their respective forts.

I diffent from the refolution of the Board for rejecting the appointment of a deputation to accompany the Governor, becaufe the meafure appears to me unconftitutional; becaufe every Member of the Government confenting to the prefent mode, is hereby rendered accountable for meafures on which he cannot even advife, much lefs vote; and becaufe fuch a precedent may be thereby eftablifhed as may be hereafter quoted, and may influence future Councils to the danger and detriment of the fervice.

I have only to add, that I have not confented to the prefent refolution. I cannot hold myfelf refponfible for any proceedings to which I have not given, or cannot give my affent.

Mr. Palmer's diffent to the refolution of the Board, that no deputation fhall go with the Prefident.

Although I entertain the higheft opinion of his Lordfhip's abilities, I was for a deputation of the Board accompanying him; becaufe I think the bufinefs his Lordfhip is now going upon of fuch confequence, as may require the affiftance and advice of fome of the members of the Board; I therefore confider myfelf as not anfwerable for any meafures that may be taken by this mode's being adopted.

Sir Robert Fletcher's diffent to the refolution of the Board laft confultation refpecting the bufinefs of Tanjore.

I diffent from the refolutions of the Board refpecting the bufinefs of Tanjore, as they ftand recorded in the confultation of Monday the 25th inftant.

Becaufe, although I affented to the firft, "That it is proper for the "Prefident to go to Tanjore for the reafons fet forth in his minute," yet I declared in the debate, that I did fo upon the idea that more members of the Council would upon a fubfequent motion be joined with

with the President, under express and particular instructions signed by the Board; but the mode which the Board has finally resolved upon is without example, and should it be drawn into a precedent hereafter, it may in its consequences serve more to forward the pernicious schemes of individuals than the honour and interest of the public. I think myself bound to declare my opinion, that we cannot legally and constitutionally vest in a deputation an undefined and unlimited power; nor shall I ever hold myself justified in consenting to a delegation of the powers of this Board but in case of evident necessity, which the present is not.

By the second resolution the President may carry with him in subordinate stations members of the Government, who are by the Company's orders specially and by name joined with him as principals in the business of the commission which he is going to execute, and are bound, in my opinion, either to act as principals at Tanjore or at the Board, by holding a regular correspondence, and sending orders to the deputation, as circumstances may require.

The third resolution seems to me totally to subvert the present constitution of the Company, at once to frustrate and elude the late orders and regulations of the General Court, and to supersede the Commissions of the Commander in Chief of the forces in India, as well as that of the Commander in Chief on this Coast. The Commission of Government is the Commission of the whole Board, and gives no separate authority whatever to the Governor. The only military authority which, by the Company's orders, the Governor can hold when he shall be absent from Fort St. George, is the command of his own guard, which is particularly and positively expressed in the late orders of the General Court; but the present resolution, and the letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, which follows and is grounded upon it, supersedes those orders, and gives an unlimited and absolute military power to the Governor over every part of the army in their different cantonments; whereas even in

Fort St. George, where, and where alone, the Governor has a military commission, his military power is limited and defined by the 42d article of the late orders.

Mr. Dalrymple informs the Board he shall find it necessary to deliver in some observations on the aforegoing minute.

The Right Honourable the President acquaints the Board, that he means to take Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Jourdan, Mr. Chambers as Interpreter, and Captain Wood, his Town-Major, to Tanjore.

Lord Pigot sets off for Tanjore.

30th. This evening the Right Honourable Lord Pigot set off for Tanjore, accompanied by Messieurs Dalrymple and Jourdan, Mr. Chambers and Captain Wood.

14th April.

At a Consultation. Present as before.

12th. Came in the following Letter from Lord Pigot.

To George Stratton, Esq. &c. Council of Fort St. George.

GENTLEMEN,

Letter from Lord Pigot; arrives at Tanjore.

I ARRIVED at this place about 9 o'clock this morning, and have seen the Rajah. I hope very soon to be able to acquaint you of my having executed my commission in such a manner as will be satisfactory.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Tanjore,
8th April, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

PIGOT.

At

At a Consultation,

Wednesday 24th April.

P R E S E N T,

George Stratton, Esq. President.

George Dawson John Maxwell Stone
Claud Russell George Mackay.
Archdale Palmer

Mr. Brooke indisposed.

Lord Pigot, Mr. Dalrymple, and Mr. Jourdan, absent on service.

The Minutes of last Consultation read.

READ the following letter from Lord Pigot, received on the 17th, together with the letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, and the public orders issued at Tanjore on the day the Rajah went in procession round the fort.

To George Stratton, Esq. &c. Council at Fort St. George.

GENTLEMEN,

Letter from Lord Pigot, enclosing copy of the orders issued at Tanjore on the restoration of the Rajah, and letter from him on that occasion.

ON Thursday last the Rajah of Tanjore went in procession round the town, and enclosed is copy of the public orders I judged proper to issue that day.

I have the pleasure to enclose also the translation of a letter from the Rajah, which I flatter myself will be entirely to the satisfaction of the Company.

In the latter part of the Rajah's letter he has remarked that Devy Cotah has no country annexed to it, and he has expressed a desire that

 the

the Company will take what they think proper; but this being contrary to their express orders, I have refused.

With respect to the grain which the Rajah may collect more than he thinks necessary for the consumption of this country, I doubt not you will agree with me, for the reasons he assigns, that it would be quite proper to purchase the same for the Company's account; he acquaints me he will convey it near to some of the sea ports.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Tanjore, 13th April, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

PIGOT.

Orders issued at Tanjore.

The Right Honourable the Lord Pigot, President of the Council for affairs of the East-India Company on the Coast of Coromandel, &c. Governor of Fort St. George.

To all whom it may concern;

WHEREAS a treaty was concluded in the year 1762 between the Nabob of the Carnatic and the Rajah of Tanjore, to which treaty the English became guarantee; and whereas, in direct violation of the above treaty, the troops of the East-India Company, at the instigation of the said Nabob, did remove the Rajah from his Government; the East-India Company, disapproving the conduct of their servants, have thought proper to require that the Rajah be again restored; and in virtue of the orders of the said Company, all officers civil and military, and all persons under the protection of the said Company, are hereby required to consider the Rajah of Tanjore as again restored to the Government of his

his country, in the full extent of that Government at the conclusion of the treaty in 1762, and to give him all proper aid and assistance.

Dated in Tanjore, the 11th April, 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

From the Rajah of Tanjore.

THE satisfaction I feel on occasion of such a friendship and extraordinary justice as the Company have displayed towards me is so great, that were I to begin to tell you what my mind conceives on the occasion, the subject would never have an end; had I a thousand tongues they could not express my gratitude. When I had an interview with your Lordship I opened to you the sentiments of my heart; but as mere verbal declarations on this head are insufficient, I have thought it proper to write you a letter.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore to Lord Pigot.

I shall ever consider myself as nourished and protected by the Company, and shall therefore never assist or succour their enemies. No measure shall ever proceed from me that is contrary to their interests, nor will I ever set on foot any connexion with other powers without the Company's consent. This I have written as a means of increasing the friendship that is between us. In the present condition of my country the placing a garrison of the English troops in the fort and city of Tanjore is exceedingly necessary; but besides this garrison, if the Company will allow some more troops likewise for the protection of my whole country, this also will be highly proper. If by the favour of heaven this be put in execution, neither I nor any of my family will need to apprehend that the calamities of war will fall upon this country again; and if the Company will only favour me thus far, I will with pleasure assign them out of my revenues the sum of four Lacks of Pagodas per annum for their military expenses; the mode of pay-

ment as follows; November 20,000, December 40,000, January 40,000, February 100,000, March 100,000, April 100,000.

For my-body guard I ſhall keep a body of men from one hundred to five hundred, and I want not to have one man either of horſe or foot more than that number.

As my finances are in utter diſorder, and the ſtate of my country all in confuſion, I muſt throw myſelf on the Company for my preſent ſupport; I therefore wiſh them to buy of me at a reaſonable rate all the grain of the preſent year, excepting what my country may be in need of; by this meaſure the Company will not be burthened, and I ſhall be enabled to defray the expenſes of my government without running in debt.

Finally, as the fort of Devy Cotah has no country annexed to it, I beg the Company will take what they think proper as a dependency thereon.

The country of Tanjore is the Company's, I have only to beg that they will preſerve my honour.

Minute on the letters from Lord Pigot and the Rajah of Tanjore.

The offer of the Rajah of Tanjore to allow four Lacks of Pagodas annually for the expenſe of the troops to be kept for the protection of his fort and country, does not in our opinion correſpond with the orders of the Company, which direct, that the garriſon of thefort of Tanjore ſhould be aſcertained, and the expenſe be defrayed by the Rajah, according to particular and regular accounts to be delivered to him; we are therefore of opinion the Rajah ſhould be informed, that when the ſtrength of the garriſon ſhall be determined by the Board, no more of this ſum than is ſufficient to defray the expenſe of it ſhall be required from him; but that, if he deſires it, ſuch a force for the protection of the

the country shall be kept up by the Company as he chuses to provide funds for.

With respect to the last paragraph of Lord Pigot's letter, the President collects the separate opinions of the members of the Board as follow:

Separate opinions respecting the purchase of grain from the Rajah of Tanjore.

Mr. Mackay's opinion.

Mr. Mackay has no objection to purchase from the Rajah what paddy he may have to dispose of, provided it is not grain mortgaged by the Nabob to individuals whilst he had the Government of the Tanjore country; he thinks *that grain* should not be disposed of, nor meddled with, until the Board have time to take the matter into consideration; if it is, he does not think himself responsible for the consequences.

Mr. Palmer's opinion.

Mr. Palmer is of the same opinion with Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stone's opinion.

Mr. Stone thinks, that, for the reasons given by the Rajah, it will be proper to purchase on the Company's account whatever paddy he can collect more than may be necessary for the consumption of his own country.

Mr. Russell's opinion.

Mr. Russell is of opinion, that for the reasons given by the Rajah, as well as because there is great prospect of its being much wanted, it will be proper to purchase on the Company's account as much grain as the Tanjore country can spare from its own consumption.

Mr. Dawson's opinion.

Mr. Dawson joins in opinion with Mr. Stone, with this addition, "and that he may have a right to dispose of."

Sir Robert Fletcher's opinion.

Sir Robert Fletcher is of opinion, that the grain mortgaged or assigned by the Nabob to individuals ought not to be disposed of or meddled

 with,

with, either by us or by the Rajah, until that matter ſhall have been conſidered and determined in Council. Sir Robert has no objection to the purchaſe of any other grain on the Company's account, as far as the proper officer is of opinion that the Company want grain. And further than this, Sir Robert Fletcher declares himſelf in no ſhape reſponſible for any meaſures that may be taken reſpecting the grain in the Tanjore country.

The Preſident's opinion.

The Preſident is of opinion, that it is quite proper, for the reaſons aſſigned by the Rajah, to purchaſe on the Company's account whatever grain the Rajah may collect more than he thinks neceſſary for the conſumption of his country.

Agreed that a letter be wrote to Lord Pigot conformable to the opinions of the majority on the aforegoing queſtion.

Sir Robert Fletcher informs the Board he has founded the opinion he has given upon undoubted information, that a great part of the grain now in the Tanjore country has been aſſigned by the Nabob to his creditors, ſome of whom are Britiſh ſubjects.

Read letter from Mr. Paul Benfield.

To George Stratton Eſq. &c. Council of Fort St. George.

GENTLEMEN,

Letter from Mr. Benfield repreſenting his claims upon the Tanjore Country, for money lent the Nabob.

I WAS in hopes I ſhould not have had occaſion to addreſs you on the ſubject of my claims on the Tanjore country, for loans to the Nabob Waw Law Jaw while that country was under his government, as I flattered myſelf no change occaſioned by the orders of the Company would have affected the concerns of individuals, entered into with

good

good faith and confidence in the Government that fubfifted at that time.

I attended the Right Honourable the Prefident to Tanjore, to be at hand to explain to him any particulars he might wifh to know regarding my concerns. After proclamation of the Rajah I thought it neceffary to addrefs his Lordfhip as follows:

MY LORD,

" UNDERSTANDING that your Lordfhip hath caufed procla-
" mations to be made, directing all the inhabitants of the Tanjore
" countries to obey the Rajah as their Prince, I have the honour to ac-
" quaint your Lordfhip, that the Nabob Waw Law Jaw Behauder, for
" money lent to him, did affign over and mortgage to me the produce
" of the Suba or diftrict of Munnoorgoody, until the fame fhould be
" difcharged; the amount is about three hundred and feventy thoufand
" Pagodas; and as a further fecurity he ordered the grain belonging to
" the Circar to be depofited with me as collected. Alfo I have the
" Nabob's orders for the payment of twenty thoufand Pagodas in
" the Suba or diftrict of Papanafhem, and fifteen thoufand Pagodas on
" Puttcotah, for cafh lent him."

Likewife I have affignments of debts of the inhabitants in the feveral diftricts, for advances made to them through the Circar, to the amount of about one hundred and twenty thoufand Pagodas, to enable them to carry on the cultivation, payable from the inhabitants' fhares of the prefent crop, according to the cuftom of the country.

I have moreover grain in feveral parts of the country, and debts due to me from many of the inhabitants, amounting together to about fixty thoufand Pagodas.

I underſtand the people in authority from the Nabob are not yet removed from the ſtations in the ſeveral diſtricts, and I truſt, when a change ſhall take place, that the juſtice of your Lordſhip will ſecure to me the recovery of my money.

I am with reſpect, &c.

Tanjore-Fort,
13th April, 1776.

P. S. " I acquainted your Lordſhip at Madras generally of my claims on the Tanjore Country, but for your Lordſhip's more particular information I have taken the liberty of making this addreſs."

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor of Fort St. George, at Tanjore.

To which I received the following anſwer.

SIR,

BEING authorized only to carry into execution the orders of the Court of Directors for reſtoring the Rajah of Tanjore, and being by thoſe orders commanded to aſſure the Rajah, in the Company's name,

" That they will ſeverely puniſh every Military Officer or
" Company's ſervant, who ſhall in any reſpect interfere
" in the affairs of his Government, and to take eſpe-
" cial care that the article be punctually fulfilled ;"

I am unable without the aid and aſſiſtance of my Council to ſay more, in reply to the letter you have been pleaſed to addreſs me

under

under this date, than that I will on my return to Madras lay the ſame before them.

Tanjore 13th April 1776.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) PIGOT.

I replied to his Lordſhip—

My LORD,

I am honoured with your Lordſhip's letter. I cannot conceive that my ſetting forth to your Lordſhip my firſt claims on the Tanjore country, can be conſidered in any reſpect to interfere in the affairs of the Rajah's Government; or that it could be the intention of the Court of Directors, that by the execution of their orders I ſhould be deprived of my right. The mode propoſed by your Lordſhip will cauſe delay, and would be hurtful to my affairs, ſhould the revenues aſſigned to me be otherwiſe applied than paid to my ſervants, who are in the different countries to receive them.

Tanjore Fort, 14th April, 1776.

I am with reſpect, &c.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor of Fort St. George, at Tanjore.

I TAKE the liberty of laying theſe before you, in full confidence that you will afford all reaſonable aid and aſſiſtance to ſecure to me the recovery of my property, while the Right Honourable Preſident under your commiſſion remains in authority over thoſe countries. I ſhall at any time be ready to lay before you ſufficient vouchers, &c. of my claims.

The urgency of my affairs will I hope apologize for the trouble I give you.

I am with respect, Gentlemen,

Fort St. George, 22d April, 1776.

Your very devoted humble servant,

PAUL BENFIELD.

The President moves to defer the consideration of the above letter.

The President moves, that a copy of Mr. Benfield's letter be transmitted to Lord Pigot, and the consideration of it deferred until his return.

Mr. Mackay's opinion.

Mr. Mackay assents to the motion, provided Lord Pigot is informed, that the grain mortgaged to Mr. Benfield be not meddled with, either by him or the Rajah, until the Board have come to a determination on it.

Mr. Palmer's opinion.

Mr. Palmer is of the same opinion of Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stone.

Mr. Stone for the motion.

Mr. Russell.

Mr. Russell for the motion.

Mr. Dawson.

Mr. Dawson for the motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher against the motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher would have no objection to defer the consideration of Mr. Benfield's letter until the return of Lord Pigot, but as he thinks it may then be too late, he is against the motion.

The President.

The President for the motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher delivers in the following minute.

I lay

I lay before the Board the following extract of military orders, issued the 16th instant by Lord Pigot, and sent to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Harper. However sensibly I feel my own disagreeable situation, I forbear for the present to make any remarks upon the military authority which is now exercised by Lord Pigot. The injury done to my own commission is immediate, and must in consequence equally affect that of the Commander in Chief of all the Honourable Company's forces in India, to whom therefore I consider it as my indispensable duty to report whatever relates to this important subject.

Sir Robert Fletcher's minute, on the military authority exercised by Lord Pigot, he lays before the Board.

Copy of General Orders issued in Tanjore the 16th instant by Lord Pigot, and transmitted by Lieutenant-Colonel Harper to Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher.

THE company of artillery, under the command of Captain Mackay, with the second battalion first brigade, commanded by Major Marcell, to hold themselves in readiness to march on Thursday morning the 18th instant for Trichinopoly, leaving behind them one non-commissioned officer, and twelve of the artillery, and three companies of Europeans, with their officers complete, who are to march to-morrow evening into the little fort, where quarters will be allowed them: the second and twelve battalions of Seapoys are to march at the same time, and encamp in the Fausse Braye of the little fort, where they are to continue until further orders.

General orders issued in Tanjore by Lord Pigot.

Colonel Harper will order a distribution of those places which can be converted into officers' quarters to be made to them.

The hospital to be removed to Vellum, under the care of Doctors White and Wilson, do continue, the first with this garrison, and the latter to proceed to Major Marcell's detachment.

Captain

Captain Cotgrave, with the battalion of Seapoys under his command, to hold themſelves in readineſs to march at the ſhorteſt notice.

The Preſident lays before the Board the following letter which he has received from the Nabob.

Letter from the Nabob, complaining of the Company's European cavalry having ſeized his Dobbeer within the diſtrict of Trichinopoly.

From the Nabob to Mr. Stratton, acting Governor of Madras, dated the 21ſt, and received the 22d April.

MY mind is full of trouble and uneaſineſs from the news I have received from Arialoor, which I now lay before you. My Amuldar at that place has informed me, that ſixty of the Company's European cavalry, with their officers, and ſome Seapoys, having ſuddenly paſſed the Cavery and Coleroon, came to Arialoor, a place under my Government, dependent on Trichinopoly, ſurrounded the houſes of Naro Pundit, (my Dobbeer) another perſon named Buchana, and others my ſervants, removed my guards by force, and placed European guards in their room, and carried the abovementioned perſons by violence and force of arms, in the ſame manner as priſoners are carried from an enemy's country, together with my public and private papers, to Lord Pigot in Tanjore. Lord Pigot's body guard coming into my country in an hoſtile manner, and carrying off my ſervants and papers by violence and force, is contrary to the friendſhip, faith, and honour of the Company, who are my friends, and the protectors of my authority and rights in the government of my own country, is repugnant to the conditions and rights of the guarantee of the Engliſh Nation, under which I am included, and to the rights of my alliance with the King of Great-Britain. By this proceeding, not only my authority and the rights of my Government have been invaded, and the peace and ſecurity of my country diſturbed, but the honour of the whole body of the Engliſh Nation has been violated. The people of my country are confounded and perplexed; and I cannot find words to expreſs how much my authority and my rights, in the government and management of the affairs of my own country, have been wounded

wounded and weakened. I do not now know what my fixed and established rights are, or whether and how far they extend, or who among my people can have any reliance on my protection: in a word, I am so perplexed and uneasy that I am not able to write more. You are sensible that I am entirely ignorant of the nature and extent of the authority that has been vested in Lord Pigot for conducting this business, but I hope my English friends will assist and support me in all the rights of my Government, and will make my heart easy, by shewing their own regard to the dictates of justice.

What can I say more?

The President acquaints the Board, that he has sent a copy of the above letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot.

24th. Dispatched the following letter to Lord Pigot:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, &c. &c.

MY LORD,

Letter to Lord Pigot. The opinion of the Board on the offers of the Rajah of Tanjore.

WE have had the honour to receive your letters of the 9th and 13th instant.

The offer of the Rajah of Tanjore to allow four Lacks of Pagodas annually, for the expense of the troops to be kept for the protection of his fort and country, does not in our opinion correspond with the orders of the Company, which direct, that the garrison for the fort of Tanjore should be ascertained, and the expense defrayed by the Rajah, according to particular and regular accounts to be delivered to him. We are therefore of opinion that the Rajah should be informed, that when the strength of the garrison shall be determined by the Board, no more of this sum than is sufficient to defray the expense of it shall be required from him; but that, if he desires it, such a force for the protection of

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the country ſhall be kept up by the Company as he chuſes to provide funds for.

We acquieſce in opinion with your Lordſhip, that it is proper to purchaſe from the Rajah, on the Company's account, the grain he may collect more than he thinks neceſſary for the conſumption of his country.

We have received a letter from Mr. Benfield, copy whereof we have the honour to encloſe you; we have reſolved to defer taking the ſame into conſideration until your Lordſhip's return.

We are, my Lord,

Fort St. George, 24th April, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

GEO. STRATTON, &c. Council.

At a Conſultation,

Monday, 29th April, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident.

Sir Robert Fletcher	George Dawſon
Henry Brooke	Claud Ruſſell
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer

George Mackay.

Lord Pigot, Mr. Dalrymple, and Mr. Jourdan, abſent on ſervice.

At Sir Robert Fletcher's inſtance, Mr. Dawſon explains his opinion entered on conſultation reſpecting the grain in the Tanjore country.

Sir Robert Fletcher remarking, that it appeared doubtful whether the opinion given by Mr. Dawſon at the laſt Council, reſpecting the grain in the Tanjore country, agreed in opinion with Mr. Mackay, Mr. Palmer, and himſelf, or that of the other Members of the Board;

Mr. Dawſon declares that his opinion was that of the latter.

May 5th.

Lord Pigot, Meſſrs. Dalrymple and Jourdan, returned from Tanjore.

At

At a Consultation, Monday 13th May, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawson	Henry Brooke
Claud Russell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

The Minutes of last Consultation read.

Minute of the President, giving an account of the execution of his commission at Tanjore.

The President being returned from Tanjore, addresses the Board on that subject in the manner following:

Having executed the commission which you did me the honour to entrust to me, I now lay before you a diary, with the letters and other papers which I have thought it necessary to take notice of, and which have not already been laid before you.

The sentiments expressed in the general letter to the Court of Directors per Ankerwyke, with the unanimous concurrence of the Board at that time, as well as in consultation the 25th March last, so clearly declare the expediency, not to say necessity, of having the whole military force in the Carnatic under the Company, and paid by them, that it gave me much satisfaction to find the Rajah of Tanjore very heartily concurred in the *wish* of the Board (consultation 25th March) that the Rajah might join them in their endeavours to place the Carnatic in such a situation, that no other force should be kept up but a *well disciplined force regularly paid*; and being sensible of the advantage of having his country thus protected by the Company, he requested their assistance to that effect, and offered to make an

assignment

affignment of 400,000 Star Pagodas per annum for that purpofe ; to be paid,

November - - -	20,000
December - - -	40,000
January - - - -	40,000
February - - -	100,000
March - - - -	100,000
April - - - -	100,000
	400,000

From April to October the country yields little, that being the time for cultivation and repairs. The fum here ftipulated will afford not only a fufficiency for defraying the troops neceffary for the protection of the Tanjore country, but will alfo leave a balance, I hope, adequate to our military expenfes not paid by the Nabob ; and I have the Rajah's affurances that this fum is confiderably lefs than what his military force ufually coft him ; fo that under this head our wifhes are completed.

The conduct of the Nabob put it out of my power to take any meafures to perfuade the Rajah to unite in promoting the other part of our plan, concerning the troops at prefent in his Highnefs's fervice; indeed the Tanjore country is not in a condition to be burthened with any extraordinary charge at this time.

Having fettled the moft effential matters with the Rajah, I thought it was proper before my departure to place the military where they would be beft able to anfwer the purpofes intended, and where the Gentoos would be the leaft interrupted in their cuftoms and ceremonies, and in that fituation which would bear the leaft appearance of the Rajah being under the conftraint, fo that he might be able to govern

2 his

his ſubjects with the fulleſt authority. The upper fort was very happily ſituated for theſe purpoſes; Major Stevens the Engineer is of opinion it may be converted into a citadel at an eaſy expenſe; a ſmall garriſon will defend it, having a moſt excellent wet ditch and no outworks; and it will command the larger fortified town very effectually. This meaſure gave the Rajah the greateſt ſatisfaction, as it ſeparated the troops from his people; and the houſes in this fort being nearly deſtroyed, the few inhabitants remaining had the Rajah's orders to remove to the large town, that the Engliſh troops might be the better accommodated. The conveniences being too few for the whole force then there, I ordered the Hoſpital to be removed to Vellum, and all the Europeans back to Trichinopoly, except three companies with their officers complete, and one non-commiſſioned officer and twelve artillery men; no time was to be loſt in doing this, or I ſhould have communicated it to you before it was carried into execution. Major Stevens will I think have the plan of this fort in readineſs to lay before you in a very few days; I indeed deſired him to conſider it well. At preſent all the expenſe the Company is put to is in the charge of ſome Cooleys to level the mud walls of the inhabitants houſes.

The revenues collected from the Tanjore country, during the time it has been in the hands of the Nabob, are I am informed as follows:

		Chuckrams.
1774	- - -	29,00,000
1775	- - -	50,00,000
1776	- - -	18,50,000
	Total	97,50,000

Out of this ſum is to be deducted the charges of collection, repairs of Tanks, &c. the amount whereof in the laſt year was about 600,000 Chuckrams; ſuppoſing this as a medium, the amount in three

 years

years will be 18,00,000, deducted from 97,00,000 will leave 79,50,000; which will be nearly the amount of what the Nabob has received from the Tanjore revenues, clear of all charges and expenſes whatever; an immenſe ſum—little leſs than 40,00,000 Pagodas. The revenues of this year will fall greatly ſhort of the uſual amount, occaſioned by the diſtracted ſtate of the country, as repreſented in the following memorandum, which was annexed to the accounts delivered to me by the Dobbeer, who informed me, that the balance for this year in grain and money amounts only to 5,50,000 Chuckrams.

Dobbeer's memorandum.

Though the above ſum of 5,50,000 Chuckrams occurs as a remainder due from the inhabitants on a general ſtatement of the revenue accounts, yet it cannot be conſidered as a balance which can ever be collected; for the month of April is near at an end, and yet the grain from various impediments has not yet been fully reaped; the conſequence of which has been, that a quantity of rain having fallen, the water ſtands two hands deep in the paddy fields, and much grain is damaged; no judgment therefore can be formed of the produce till it is threſhed and meaſured. Now the eſtabliſhed cuſtom of the Tanjore country has hitherto been, to gather in the harveſt and complete the collections within the month of March; but Tuncaws and Toujees having been made out upon the country this year, to the amount of ſixty Lacks of Chuckrams, the inhabitants took the alarm, as conceiving the whole weight of this calamity would fall upon them. But this was not their only ſubject of apprehenſion; for they had received their advances of grain for ſeed, and other purpoſes of the Circar, in the beginning of the year, at the rate of 7 gold fanams per cullum, and now, according to the new aſſeſſment, they were to account for it with the Circar again at the rate of only $2\frac{1}{2}$ gold fanams per cullum. They were now hard preſſed too for the payment of their balances of laſt year, which were calculated not from the produce, but from the aſſeſſment of the lands, as *farmed* out to them by the Circar. The Ameens alſo, having rated the lands above their real value, were continually forcing

forcing the people, by imprifonment and other acts of violence, to give them notes for the fums computed by them (the Ameens) to be due, as though they had originally been farmed out to them at the rates now impofed; during which tranfactions they prohibited the cutting of the grain. Having thus procured thefe notes of part of the inhabitants, and refolving that if the Rajah fhould be reftored he fhould have no balance to collect, they delivered them over to the Tunkadars, the regiments, &c. which increafed their fufferings. Such were the circumftances which alarmed the inhabitants, and made them elope to Negapatam and the confines of the fea-port towns; and thus the harveft was delayed till the month of March was over. But Nizam ud Dien Ahmed Cawn applied himfelf to the appeafing the inhabitants, and difpatched Cowls with the Cutcherry feal affixed into all the Sobahs, affuring them that the notes which the Ameens had taken from them by violence fhould be returned to them; that the lands fhould no longer be rented to them as farms, but managed as Circar lands; that their advances of grain, and the laft year's balances, fhould be accounted for in the fame manner as this year's revenue; and finally, that they fhould fuffer no longer from Tunkadars and Toujeedars. By this means he recalled the people, returned them their notes, and fet the lands on the proper footing but fo great a delay in gathering in the harveft having already taken place, and a great deal of rain having alfo fallen in that interim, the inhabitants have of neceffity fuffered a confiderable lofs; and on this account it is that the above balance cannot be made good.

Lord Pigot's Diary during his Absence from the Presidency.

In the evening left Madras. 1776, 30th March.

Overtook the 6th battalion of Seapoys at Allamparva, and directed Captain Mackenzie to march round with them, fo as not to enter the French bounds. 1ft April.

Dined with Governor Law in Pondicherry, and in the evening arrived at the garden-houfe of Fort St. David. 2d April.

Wrote

4th April. Wrote to the Nabob, (No. 1.) and alſo to the Rajah of Tanjore (No. 2.) encloſed in a letter to Lieut. Col. Harper; and in the evening proceeded through Cuddalore towards Tanjore, having ordered the troop on to Mootapollam, and the 6th battalion of Seapoys, which had again joined us, to make the beſt of their way towards Tanjore.

No. 1.

To the Nabob.

To the Nabob.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

I WILL not offend with writing upon buſineſs; but I cannot avoid thanking you for your great attention in writing to your Amuldars and ſervants, who have ſupplied me upon the road with every thing neceſſary.

I am now at Cuddalore, and ſhall proceed on my journey in the afternoon.

I am, with great eſteem,

Your Highneſs's moſt obedient humble ſervant,

PIGOT.

Cuddalore,
4th April, 1776.

No. 2.

To the Rajah of Tanjore.

To the Rajah of Tanjore.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that I ſhall leave Cuddalore this evening, and I hope to arrive at Tanjore next Monday in the forenoon.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

PIGOT.

Cuddalore,
4th April, 1776.

Received a letter from the Rajah of Tanjore (No. 3.) together with a letter from Lieut. Col. Harper at Tanjore, dated the 6th, informing me, that Lieut. Burrows, with his regiment of the Nabob's cavalry, marched that morning to the Southward, and Lieut. Jordan with his at the same time for Arialoor. 7th April.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot. No. 3.

MY LORD,

From the Rajah of Tanjore.

YOUR Lordship's highly esteemed favour of the 4th instant was delivered to me to day by Lieut. Col. Harper. The thought of seeing your Lordship here fills my heart with an inexpressible joy. I cannot but repeat it again and again, that your Lordship shall always be esteemed as my father; how happy then shall I be to see my benefactor and father.

I remain, with true veneration,

Tanjore, MY LORD,
6th April, 1776. Your Lordship's most obliged humble servant.

In the morning was met by the Rajah of Tanjore's brother, and proceeded with him to Tanjore, where the Rajah received me at the entrance of his palace. 8th

Wrote to Fort St. George, advising of my arrival, and hopes of executing my commission very soon.

Appointed Capt. Robert Wood to act as my Aid de Camp.

In the morning, complaint having been made that Comra, a Madras Dubash, had intruded himself last night at eleven o'clock, 9th.

when the Rajah was gone to ſleep, and behaved himſelf very impro-perly; gave orders that he ſhould be chabucked upon the public parade.

In the evening waited on the Rajah, and explained the orders I have received from the Company, and what were the wiſhes of myſelf and the Council of Fort St. George. The Rajah informed me that he was perfectly ſatisfied, only that he wiſhed to add ſome territory to the Company about Devy Cotah. I thanked him for his offer, but aſſured him I could not accept of any ſuch grant, as the Company had given poſitive orders not to extend their poſſeſſions. The Rajah ſtill preſſed the matter, and I obſerved to him, that my perſiſting in the refuſal would evince the ſincerity of the Company's profeſſions.

Preſented the Rajah with a horſe and a palanqueen, he having neither the one nor the other.

11th April. The Rajah this day went round the fort in proceſſion, and was ſaluted accordingly. Public orders were read at the head of the troops, requiring all perſons in the ſervice, or under the protection of the Company, to conſider the Rajah as reſtored to the Government of his country, in the full extent, of that Government at the concluſion of the treaty in 1762, and to give him all proper aid and aſſiſtance. Theſe orders having been tranſlated into the Maratta language, were again read in the evening, when I paid my compliments to the Rajah.

12th Received a letter from the Rajah, (No. 4.) expreſſing his ſentiments of gratitude to the Company, deſiring they would not only garriſon Tanjore, but protect his whole country with their troops, and offering an aſſignment in that caſe of 400,000 Star Pagodas per annum to defray the Company's military expenſes; making an offer of diſtricts around Devy Cotah; and requeſting the Company would buy at a reaſonable price

price all the paddy he may receive more than ſhall be wanted in this country, for certain reaſons therein aſſigned.

From the Rajah of Tanjore.

No. 4.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore upon his reſtoration, deſiring the Company would protect his country, and offering 4 Lacks of Pagodas per annum.

THE ſatisfaction I feel on occaſion of ſuch friendſhip and extraordinary juſtice as the Company have diſplayed towards me is ſo great, that were I to begin to tell you what my mind conceives on the occaſion, the ſubject would never have an end; had I a thouſand tongues they could not expreſs my gratitude. When I had an interview with your Lordſhip I opened to you the ſentiments of my heart; but as mere verbal declarations on this head are inſufficient, I have thought it proper to write you a letter.

I ſhall ever conſider myſelf as nouriſhed and protected by the Company, and ſhall therefore never aſſiſt or ſuccour their enemies. No meaſure ſhall ever proceed from me that is contrary to their intereſts, nor will I ever ſet on foot any connexion with other powers without the Company's conſent. This I have written as a means of increaſing the friendſhip that is between us.

In the preſent condition of my country, the placing a garriſon of the Engliſh troops in the fort and city of Tanjore is exceedingly neceſſary; but beſides this garriſon, if the Company will allow ſome more troops likewiſe for the protection of my whole country, this alſo will be highly proper. If by the favour of heaven this be put in execution, neither I nor any of my family will need to apprehend that the calamities of war will fall upon this country again; and if the Company will only favour me thus far, I will with pleaſure aſſign them out of my revenues the ſum of four Lacks of Pagodas per annum for their military expenſes.

For my body guard I ſhall keep a body of men from one hundred

 to

to five hundred; I want not to have one man, either of horſe or foot, more than that number.

As my finances are in utter diſorder, and the ſtate of my country all in confuſion, I muſt throw myſelf on the Company for my preſent ſupport; I therefore wiſh them to buy of me, at a reaſonable rate, all the grain of the preſent year, excepting what my country may be in need of; by this meaſure the Company will not be burthened, and I ſhall be enabled to defray the expenſes of my Government without running in debt.

Finally, as the fort of Devy Cotah has no country annexed to it, I beg the Company will take what they think proper as a dependency thereon.

The country of Tanjore is the Company's; I have only to beg that they will preſerve my honour.

Deſired Nazib Cawn, the Nabob's Kelladar, to remove his Highneſs's troop out of the fort to-morrow morning. Orders were given to ſalute him in going out, and to pay him all proper honours, his behaviour having been in every reſpect, during his reſidence here, very proper.

13th April. Wrote to Madraſs, encloſing copy of the Rajah's letter.

The Rajah having applied for ſome Seapoys to protect his officers in the collection of the revenues, ordered Captain Mackenzie to march with the 6th battalion of Seapoys for that purpoſe.

Gave Captain Tonyn orders to proceed with the troops to Vickerum to eſcort the Dobbeer hither.

Sent

Sent a peon to bring the Rajah's writer, who had been carried off.

Received a letter from Mr. Benfield, to which wrote an anſwer.

In the morning received another letter from Mr. Benfield, who informed me of his intention of going back to Madras. 14th April

At the Rajah's requeſt ordered Capt. Mackenzie to ſend detachments to Mannagoody and Putta Cotah.

Received a letter from Capt. Tonyn, that the Dobbeer was gone from Vickerum to Arialoor, where he intended to follow.

In the evening received two letters from the Nabob, both dated 10 April (No. 5 and 6).

Tranſlation of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated April 10, 1776.

I HAVE received your Lordſhip's letter of the 4th inſtant, wherein you mention that you will not trouble me with matters of buſineſs, but that you cannot omit thanking me for the great attention which has been paid you by my Amildars; that you leave Cuddalore in the evening with intention to proceed to Tanjore. From the Nabob.

I am an old friend to the Company and to you, and have no doubt that *your Lordſhip will neither ſay nor do any thing that will give me pain, and that you will take care of my rights, and not interfere in my buſineſs, as I have mentioned to you in many letters.*

I wrote to my ſervants to prepare every thing that might be neceſſary to your Lordſhip, and it was my duty to do ſo. The thanks which your Lordſhip expreſſes are returned on my part for your thinking your-

 ſelf

ſelf obliged, but I ſhould have been glad if you had returned to me from Cuddalore inſtead of proceeding from thence.

From the Nabob, dated 10 April, 1776; received 14th ditto, ditto.

From the Nabob, alledging a promiſe from the Preſident that his troops in Tanjore ſhould be paid from the Tanjore revenues.

YOU well know, Sir, that at the time of appointing a garriſon of the Company for the defence of the fort of Tanjore, and of leaving a body of my Seapoys with Mahomed Nazib Cawn as my Kelladar, you were under great concern on account of the great arrears due to the military of that garriſon, as they might perhaps raiſe God knows what diſturbances: at length you poſitively agreed there ſhould be no impediment in the payment of the orders on the Tanjore country for the amount of their pay; and you told me that I might leave a thouſand Seapoys in the fort with Mahomed Nazib Cawn, and ſend the reſt away. As for the latter, you and I mutually agreed that they ſhould ſtay at Combagonum, where they ſhould receive their arrears from the country their orders were upon. With a view to this circumſtance it was that I wrote to my Deputy Mahomed Nazib Cawn, that he ſhould receive their arrears from the revenues of the Tanjore country; I ſhewed that paper to you, and, after you had approved of it, delivered it to you; you then encloſed it in a letter of your own to Colonel Harper, in order to be given by him to Mahomed Nazib Cawn; and it was delivered him accordingly; Nazib Cawn of courſe became ſecurity to the men for their arrears. My firm hope in the goodneſs of my old friend is, that you will act in my favour agreeable to your engagements, that the clamour for pay may be at an end.

What ſhould I write more?

April 15th. Went to Vellum to ſee that place, which was reported to have a good hoſpital.

Received a letter from Captain Tonyn at Arialoor, that he had overtaken the Dobbeer, and that he would eſcort him to Tanjore, which he accordingly did this day.

Received

Received a letter from Captain Mackenzie at Combagonum, enclosing a request from Major Martinz, who commands the Nabob's troops in the Tanjore country, that the Rajah's officers should not require any money to be refunded which had been paid before the proclamation of his restoration.

Having represented this matter to the Rajah, he ordered that his Amuldars should confine their attention to securing the grain, without attempting to recover the money which may have been collected by individuals; and wrote to Captain Mackenzie to inform him of these orders. April 16th.

It being necessary to remove the troops immediately out of the town, the houses of the principal inhabitants being occupied by the officers, &c. and the upper fort not having the necessary accommodations for so many people, ordered the hospital to be removed to Vellum, and all the Europeans to return to Trichinopoly to-morrow, except three companies with their officers complete, and one non-commissioned officer and twelve artillery men.

Ordered 2 companies of the 2d battalion of Seapoys to march with the detachment of Europeans to Trichinopoly, and to return from thence to Culady and Tricattapolly, to protect the Rajah's officers in the collection of the revenue. 17th.

Thanked in public orders Lieutenant-Colonel Harper and the officers and men of the garrison, and communicated the Company's orders, that no person civil or military should interfere in the affairs of the Rajah's Government.

Received a letter from Captain Mackenzie at Combagonum the 17th, in which he informs me, that some of Kistnaroy's people, *unknown to him*, (the Rajah's manager) has behaved very ill to Khan Saheb, on "account 18th.

"of

" of a preſent of twelve Rupees he received the day before Captain Mac-
" kenzie arrived at this place. At his requeſt Kiſtnaroy has put a ſtop
" to ſuch behaviour in future."

April 19th. Ordered Captain Cotgrave, with the 2d battalion of Seapoys, to Magevaram, to protect the Rajah's officers in the collection of the revenues.

20th. Wrote a letter to the Nabob (No. 7.) in anſwer to his two letters of the 10th.

No. 7.

To the Nabob.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

Letter to the Nabob denying the alledged promiſe, and on the ſtate of his troops and affairs.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your two letters of the 10th April.

It would have given me great pleaſure if you had condeſcended to attend to my advice when I was at Madras, as it would have made my journey to theſe parts unneceſſary. Be aſſured, Sir, that I will do every thing in my power to protect your rights, and that I will never interfere in *your buſineſs*, as you are pleaſed to expreſs yourſelf, but when *that buſineſs* is connected with the intereſt of my employers; in ſuch caſe you may be aſſured that I ſhall always act as appears to me proper; and as you are their old friend and ally, I dare ſay you will approve of my making uſe of your authority.

When I took my leave of you, I acquainted you I was coming to Tanjore to replace the Rajah in his Government, and put him in poſſeſſion of his country, by the authority and expreſs commands of the Company. I am ſorry to obſerve to you, that I found, as I paſſed through the country, the proper officers with all the accounts had been removed by your orders from every village; and I was ſoon informed

that

that every part of the country was in the ſame ſituation. Every means had been taken to throw difficulties in my way in the execution of the Company's orders, and to diſtreſs the country and inhabitants. In this ſituation, Sir, I thought it the propereſt method to eſcort the Dobbeer hither by the Company's troop of cavalry. He is now here, and having been at the head of the revenue department, formerly in the ſervice of the Rajah, and lately in your's, if you will pleaſe to order the different Amuldars and other officers to return with their accounts, juſtice may be done to every man, and the country reſtored in that proper and equitable manner, which the world will expect from a friend and old ally of the Company.

It is very true, Sir, that I, as well as every friend you have, and every friend and well-wiſher to the proſperity of the Company, were, are, and muſt continue to be alarmed at the great arrears of pay due to your troops. Perhaps, Sir, it might be made appear that as much money has been collected from the Tanjore country, ſince you were acquainted with the Company's orders, as would have paid the troops of Nazib Khan, and gone a great way towards diſcharging the arrears due to the reſt; but if you turn back to the letters which have been wrote to you, you will find that it was expreſsly inſiſted upon that an Engliſh garriſon ſhould be put into Tanjore; and the Rajah ſet at liberty without any terms would have been diſgraceful on that occaſion.

I always thought that you and your manager had great merit in being able to remove a body of troops, to whom ſuch large arrears were due; but I never made you any promiſe on the part of the Company; you know well they had directed the country to be reſtored to the Rajah.

There was one method, and but one, which ever occurred to me, likely to relieve you from that burthenſome debt due to your troops; I

repeatedly told you of it, and I will do so now; it was, that if you would consent to the disbanding those troops, or to the Company's enlisting into their service such of them as I might chuse to accept of, I would use my endeavours with the Rajah of Tanjore to suffer a part of the revenues of his country to be applied to the purpose of paying off their arrears; but as this is what you would not hearken to, I see not at present how the Company can be of any service to you upon the occasion. I tell you again and again that troops ill paid will always be the master of the man who employs them; those you have, if they do not disband themselves, which I understand some of them have done, must be disbanded by your Highness, or you will be more and more distressed.

I have the honour to be,

Your Highness's

Tanjore, 20th April, 1776.

Most obedient and most obliged humble servant,

PIGOT.

April 21st. Received a letter from Captain Mackenzie, dated at Combagonum the 20th, in which is the following paragraph:

" Kistnaroy desired I would order the Nabob's troops out of the " country, as the Rajah's business could not be carried on in a proper " manner until they were ordered away. As I have no orders from your " Lordship to that purpose, I desired him to send in his master's name, " which he did, and carried Major Martinz's answer to the Rajah that " they had no orders. The Nabob's troops are now gathered from the " different villages, and encamped at Ammachattram, three miles from " this place."

Captain

Captain Mackenzie's letter alſo contained a letter to him from Major Martinz, complaining of the ill-behaviour of ſome of the Company's Seapoys, who had taken four Subadars belonging to the Nabob priſoners, by way of ſecurity for ſome money which had been received by the Nabob's troops on the 13th, when the proclamation of the Rajah's reſtoration was not till the 15th.

Wrote immediately to Captain Mackenzie to releaſe the four Subadars, and not to take any body into confinement without orders from me or Colonel Harper.

Wrote alſo to Major Martinz (No. 8.)

To Major Martinz. No. 8.

SIR,

I RECEIVED from Captain Mackenzie a letter of the 15th encloſing a repreſentation which you had made to him, and I anſwered his letter in ſuch manner as I thought would have prevented any inconvenience of the kind you mentioned; this letter muſt have miſcarried, I therefore ſend him another copy, and I have directed him to releaſe your people. Major Martinz.

Your own prudence will ſhew you how difficult it will be to prevent diſputes ariſing, whilſt any of the troops of the Nabob remain in parts of the Tanjore country, where the Rajah's ſervants are protected by thoſe of the Company in the collection of the revenues; as ſuch diſputes would doubtleſs give the Nabob much uneaſineſs, you will therefore pleaſe to conſider this as a ſufficient authority to remove without the limits of Tanjore.

I am, Sir,

Tanjore, Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

21ſt April, 1776. PIGOT.

April 21st. Received a letter from Lieutenant Quin at Mannagoody, dated the 18th April, sent by the late manager of that place, whom the Black Commandant of the Nabob's Seapoys wanted to take prisoner and convey to Madras, in consequence of an order received from the Nabob; but as the present manager informed him he had also an order from the Rajah to send him to Tanjore, in order that he may give in his accounts, he had thought it best to comply with the latter instructions.

Lieutenant Quin adds, that the Nabob's officer was to march from thence the day following with his Seapoys for Combagonum, and that this officer informed him the manager is some months in arrears with the Nabob.

22d. Received a letter from Captain Povery at Madura, dated the 20th, to acquaint me, that a report had just been made to him, that there was come near that place on their way to Tinnevelly 400 large bullocks, 1000 cows, 100 horses, two large ones, one of which belonged to the Rajah of Tanjore, the other to Monagee, 50 buffaloes, and 100 large and small haccaries, all formerly belonging to Tanjore, and are now under five guards of the Nabob's Seapoys from Tripetore, where they have been these four months past.

24th. Received a letter (No. 9.) from Major Martinz, at Ammachattram, dated 22d April, and wrote a reply to him, (No. 10.)

To the Right Honourable Lord George Pigot.

May it please your Lordship,

From Major Martinz.

I ACKNOWLEDGE the honour of your Lordship's letter to me, and am glad to find that your Lordship has taken into consideration the unjust confinement of the Subadars.

Your

Your Lordſhip has been pleaſed to order that I ſhould move without the limits of Tanjore, as it would be difficult to prevent diſputes ariſing whilſt any of the Nabob's troops remain in any part of the Tanjore country, where the Rajah's ſervants are protected by thoſe of the Company in the collection of the revenues. April 24th.

I beg leave to repreſent to your Lordſhip, that at the time I was ordered to march out of Tanjore a garriſon then under my command, conſiſting of about five thouſand men, who were many months in arrears of pay, his Highneſs the Nabob wrote me, that the whole ſhould without the leaſt doubt be paid at Combagonum, and that your Lordſhip had agreed to the ſame; in conſequence of which, as likewiſe by a prudent method, the garriſon marched out; and now I find myſelf much diſappointed, and in a very diſagreeable ſituation.

In a letter which the Nabob wrote to me, dated the 31ſt of March, I am acquainted, that after your Lordſhip's arrival at Tanjore, and all the country matters ſettled, the troops under my command, diſperſed about the country, were to join me at this place, in order that the whole might be paid off, your Lordſhip having ſo promiſed, and that I was to remain here until further orders; therefore ſhould I march from hence without orders (ſuppoſing that the troops would obey me, which I doubt much without being firſt paid off) though authorized by your Lordſhip, I might he blamed by the Nabob, and perhaps my commiſſion taken from me. I will immediately acquaint his Highneſs the Nabob, and till ſuch time that I am able to get an anſwer beg leave to remain; likewiſe it will take ſome few days before all my people come in from the different parts of the country to join me.

I muſt therefore beg leave to repreſent to your Lordſhip, that from the time that each province or each village was put into the reſtored Rajah's poſſeſſion by the protection of the Honourable Company's forces, not a man belonging to his Highneſs the Nabob has oppoſed,

 prevented,

April 24th. prevented, or interfered in the collecting of the revenues, or of the settling of the country matters.

The protection of the Honourable Company to the restored Rajah cannot exceed that to his Highness, as every one is well convinced of the alliance and friendship that has and will exist between them.

As the Nabob wrote to me that the troops under my command should be paid off before I should be ordered to march, it being your Lordship's intentions, I beg to know, and have to request of your Lordship, what measures are to be taken on this head. I had an order on this country for the payment of the troops, but the change of government has put an entire stop to its being paid.

Myself as well as the other European officers have been at the expense of building and repairing quarters when in the garrison of Tanjore, the list of which was sent to his Highness the Nabob, amounting to 7000 Pagodas, who has been pleased to send up an order on this country for its payment; but it has likewise been put a stop to.

I should not trouble your Lordship with such a long epistle, but knowing your Lordship's good inclinations towards giving justice to every individual, has been the reason of my being so bold; and so far from thinking your Lordship will take it amiss of me, that I hope, and make no doubt, but that it will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
and most humble servant,

M. MARTINZ.

Ammachattram,
22d April, 1776.

To

To Major Martinz. April 24th.

No. 10.

S I R,

To Major Martinz.

I HAVE received your letter of the 22d. I conclude you muſt have miſunderſtood the Nabob's letter concerning the payment of his Highneſs's troops in the Tanjore country, for as you tell me that letter is dated the 31ſt March, it is extraordinary I ſhould have heard nothing from the Nabob upon that head when I took leave of him the day before; however I ſhall be glad if you will ſend me a return of them, and an account of the arrears which are due.

I am, SIR,

Tanjore, 24th April 1776.

Your moſt humble ſervant,

PIGOT.

Preſented the Rajah with a Cataree, which originally belonged to the Gentoo Kings of Trichinopoly.

Wrote to Captains Cotgrave and Mackenzie, that I diſapprove of any perſons being kept in confinement by the Company's troops; and directing, that when applications of ſuch a nature are made to them, or their officers on detachment, they ſend the perſon complained of under a guard to Tanjore, acquainting Colonel Harper therewith. 25th.

In the evening left Tanjore accompanied by the Rajah, who inſiſted on ſeeing me to the limits of his dominions, and was alſo deſirous of viſiting the Dam between the Coleroon and Cavery. Stopped in the

night at Trecatapolly, a Fort belonging to Tanjore, which the Nabob's Kelladar was ready to evacuate.

April 26th. In the morning paſſed over the Dam, which is an ancient work of ſtone, extremely well laid and cemented together, with a ſolid coat of gravel over it. By this Dam the ſuperfluous water of the Cavery paſſes into the Coleroon in floods, and prevents the Tanjore country from being overflowed, as the preſervation of this bank ſecures a ſufficiency of water to the ſame country.

In the evening parted with the Rajah, leaving him there, and proceeded to Samvaveram.

29th. At Tiagar received a letter (No. 11) from Major Martinz, with a ſtate of the Nabob's troops, and an account of the arrears due to them.

To the Right Honourable Lord George Pigot.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip,

No 11. Letter from Major Martinz, with a return of the Nabob's troops and account of arrears.

I AM honoured with your Lordſhip's letter of the 24th inſtant, and, in conſequence of your Lordſhip's commands, I ſend encloſed a preſent ſtate of the troops now here, wherein are particularized the different corps that have been ſeparated or detached from me ſince I marched out of Tanjore, as likewiſe a calculation, as true as I poſſible could make out, of the pay due.

The troops are always paid by black writers, who attend the head man belonging to the Nabob, and they pay every man as per *Chera*, and not by abſtracts from European officers; therefore, my Lord, ſhould the payment of theſe troops be taken into conſideration by your Lordſhip,

ſhip, and a ſum of money ordered for that purpoſe, I will give a receipt for it, and deliver the ſum to Mahomed Nazeeb Cawn Behauder, the Buckſee and Paymaſter-General to all the troops, and I ſhall ſee that he does pay them off. I can aſſure your Lordſhip that ſeven months are now due from the 1ſt of October to the end of April 1776, out of which arrears ſome of the Seapoys that were about the country may have received a trifle, which is only known to the black writers.

After the gentlemen had repreſented to the Nabob the expenſe they had been at in building and repairing quarters, his Highneſs ſent an order for the payment of the money they had laid out, and I paſſed my word to them, that agreeable to the ſaid order they ſhould be reimburſed; I could wiſh your Lordſhip would adviſe me how it is to be procured, as the houſes built and repaired by individuals are now become the property of the reſtored Rajah.

With the greateſt reſpect,

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Ammachattram, 26th April, 1776.

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant,

M. MARTINZ.

A Present State of His Highness the Nabob's Troops, under the command of Major Manuel Martinz, at Ammachattram, in the Tanjore Country, April 26, 1776.

	Commissioned Officers.					Staff Officers.				Non-commissionedOfficers.					Black Officers, &c. Seapoys.										
	Major	Captains	Lieutenants	Entigns	Total	Adjutant	Quarter-master	Surgeon	Total	Serjeant-major	Quarter-master Serj.	Drum-major	Serjeants	Total	Commandants	Subadars	Jamidars	Havildars	Naigues	Colourmen	Drums and Fifes	Puckallys	Vackeels	Seapoys	Total
2d Battalions of Seapoys	1	1	3	1	6							1	6	7	2	8	20	60	60	10	13	10	10	631	824
3d Ditto of Ditto			2	2	4	1			1		1	1	4	6	1	9	20	60	60	10	13	10	10	608	801
4th Ditto of Ditto		1	1	1	3					1		1	3	5	1	9	19	60	59	10	13	10	10	606	797
Total	1	2	6	4	13	1			1	1	1	3	13	18	4	26	59	180	179	30	39	30	30	1845	2422

N. B. The undermentioned Corps were in the Garrison of Tanjore under the command of Mr. Martinz.

A Regiment of Infantry Topasses — — — — detached.

A Regiment of Light Infantry Seapoys, forming Artillery, — — detached.

The 10th Battalion of Seapoys — — — — detached.

The 9th Battalion of ditto, left at Tanjore to take care of the Garrison until the Honourable Company's Troops marched in.

A Company of Invalid Seapoys — — — — — detached.

M. MARTINZ, Major Commandant.

A Calculation

A Calculation of Pay due to the Troops belonging to his Highneſs the Nabob, which compoſed the Garriſon of Tanjore, commanded by Major M. Martinz.

Due to the 2d Brigade now at Ammachattram, viz.

	Pagodas.
To the 2d Battalion, officers, ferjeants, and artificers included, pay from the 1ſt of October to the end of April, 1776, 7 months, at about 2000 Pagodas per month, —	14,000
To the 3d Battalion, officers, ferjeants, &c. as above —	14,000
To the 4th ditto, ditto — — —	14,000
To Major Martinz' pay and allowances, at 300 Pagodas per month, 7 months, — — — —	2,100
To 1 Major's off-reckonings, from the 1ſt of January, 1775, to the end of December, 1776, two years, at 750 Pagodas per annum, — — — —	1,500
To 2 Captains' off reckonings for 2 years as above, at 500 Pagodas per annum each, 1000 Pagodas —	2,000
Total	47,600

Due to the troops detached.

To 1 Regiment of Light Infantry Seapoys, formerly Artillery, from the 1ſt of October to the end of April, 1776, — — — —	Seven months
To 1 Regiment of Infantry, Topaſſes as above, —	Ditto
To the 10th Battalion, detached as above, —	Ditto
To the 9th Battalion, as above — —	Ditto
To 1 Company of Invalid Seapoys, — —	Ditto

N. B. To clear off all the troops that were in the Garriſon of Tanjore a ſum of one hundred and ten or twenty thouſand Pagodas will be required.

April 29th. Wrote to the Rajah of Tanjore (No. 12.)

No. 12. *To the Rajah of Tanjore.*

I write this from Tiagar, which I compute to be about half way upon my journey home, and it is to repeat my aſſurances, that I will omit no opportunity of making the Company acquainted how juſtly they have ſupported you, how much you merit their protection, and how thankful you have been for the attention they have ſhewn to your ſufferings; thoſe ſufferings, I hope, are at an end, and I pray to God that you may in time to come enjoy all the bleſſing that life affords.

I have the honour to be,

With great reſpect and eſteem,

Tiagar, Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

29th April, 1776. PIGOT.

Received a letter from Mr. Stratton and the Council of Fort St. George, dated the 24th inſtant.

30th. In the morning came to Tricaloor, where we found 420 fine Guzerat cows, formerly belonging to the Rajah of Tanjore, beſides many elephants, and a great number of bullocks, &c. brought from the Tanjore country.

May 3. At Outremaloor received letter from the Rajah of Tanjore (No. 13.)

No. 13. Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore. *From the Rajah of Tanjore. Received at Outremaloor, 3d May, 1776.*

After having viewed the bank and taken leave of your Lordſhip, I ſet

ſet out on my return, and on the 29th April arrived at Trivady; from thence, after performing my ablutions in the Cavery, I ſet out and arrived in the fort of Tanjore in the evening. On leaving your Lordſhip, I experienced the ſame anxiety of mind that a child feels at being deprived of its parents. How ſhall I attempt to write on a ſubject of ſuch a boundleſs nature as that of your goodneſs and humanity towards me? I was ruined, and you ſaved me; I had fallen into an abyſs and miſery, and you took me by the hand and rouſed me. Believe me I can never forget you, you will be always in my thoughts. The paternal advice you gave has taken deep root in my mind, and I ſhall be careful to put every part of it in practice. I hope to be honoured with your Lordſhip's letter, which will always be a matter of joy to me.

What ſhall I write more?

(Signed) SREE RAM PURTAUB.

Arrived at Fort St. George. May 5th.

No. 14. is a long letter from the Nabob, dated 29th April, received upon the road.

Tranſlation of a Copy of a Letter to Lord Pigot, dated and received the 29th April, 1776.

Letter from the Nabob, recapitulating circumſtances regarding the reſtoration of the Rajah.

Your Lordſhip's letter, written in Engliſh, dated the 8th inſtant, found me oppreſſed with concern and uneaſineſs, and I now proceed to anſwer it as far as I have been able to underſtand the contents in the Engliſh language.

You write, that if I had attended to your advice before you left Madras, your going to Tanjore would have been unneceſſary. From the beginning of my firm friendſhip with the Company and Engliſh Nation, I have always paid attention to the counſels of the agents of my good friends, when the object of ſuch counſels was the preſervation of my honour and rights; but have always declared my own opinions, and ſuggeſted my own arguments, in all ſuch matters as have appeared diſadvan-

 tageous

tageous to my affairs, and derogatory to my honour. After your Lordſhip's arrival, and my being informed of the orders you brought out from the Company relative to Tanjore, you well know that I readily agreed to receive a garriſon of my friends in that fort; but as I was well perſuaded that the Company's orders concerning the Tanjore country proceeded from their being unacquainted with the real circumſtances of affairs here, I explained to you my wiſhes and inclinations on the ſubject, deſired leave to ſend a faithful repreſentation of matters to the Company, and begged and entreated you in the moſt preſſing manner not to interfere in my rights until the receipt of the Company's anſwer. This requeſt however, although it could not be attended with any detriment, you did not comply with, but proceeded to Tanjore. I told your Lordſhip repeatedly that a ſingle Company's peon was ſufficient for the purpoſe, as my ſervants had my orders not to oppoſe the Company's people, and that your going was therefore neceſſary.

Your Lordſhip writes to me, " To be aſſured that you will uſe " your utmoſt endeavours on all occaſions to preſerve my rights, and " that you will never interfere in any of my affairs, as I am pleaſed to " expreſs myſelf, unleſs ſuch affairs be connected with the intereſts of " your employers; that in ſuch caſe I may be aſſured you will do what " may appear proper; and that as I am an ancient friend and ally, you " are convinced I ſhall approve of your making uſe of my authority." I am obliged to your Lordſhip for what you are ſo good as to declare of your intentions to preſerve my rights, and not to interfere in my affairs, and if the event turns out purſuantly, I ſhall ſtill be more obliged.

From the beginning of the eſtabliſhment of my friendſhip with the Company, I have upon all occaſions made their intereſt and proſperity the object of my conſtant attention, and ſhall always continue to do ſo; and my good friends have likewiſe conſidered, and ſtill con-

tinue to consider the preservation of the rights and honour of their firm friend, as immediately connected with their own interest and success. I hope in God that this chain of friendship will continue strong during my life, and that it may be handed down without decay or blemish to my latest posterity.

Your Lordship will be candid enough to acknowledge, how impossible it must be for me to approve of your making use of my authority, in a transaction which is derogatory to my rights and honour as an ally of the King of Great-Britain, and the ancient and original friend of the Company and English Nation.

You write, " That when you took leave of me, you informed me you were going to Tanjore to re-establish Tuljaujee in his Government, and to put his country under his management, by the authority and pursuant to the positive orders of the Company." With regard to this transaction, I must observe, that I never gave my consent to it, but have both declared and written my pleasure on the subject according to a certain mode, as will appear by my several letters, dated the 29th of Zecada, the 3d and 12th of Zehudja, in the year of the Hegyra 1189, and the 20th and 28th of Mohurrum, and the 4th and 7th of Suffur, in the year of the Hegyra 1190.

Your Lordship writes, " That you are sorry to observe, you found on passing through the country that my principal managers had by my orders left the villages, and carried away all the accounts; that you soon learnt the case was the same in all the other parts of the country; and that every species of difficulty was thrown in your way, to prevent the execution of the Company's orders, and to distress the inhabitants and country: that under such circumstances you had thought proper to escort the Dobbeer to Tanjore with the Company's horse; that he was formerly at the head of the revenue department in Tuljaujee's service,

and

and lately in mine: that if I will ſend orders to my managers and ſervants to return with their accounts, juſtice can be done to every one, and you can reſtore the country in a proper manner, which all the world expects from the ancient friend and ally of the Company."

Before your Lordſhip's departure for Tanjore, I had ordered the Dobbeer and my clerks and officers employed in that country to come to me with their accounts and papers, and they had accordingly proceeded to Allyanoor, which is dependent on Trichinopoly, in their way to this place.

Upon your arrival at Tanjore, Mohummud Abrar Cawn, and Nizam ul-Dien Ahmed Cawn, and Ally Dill Cawn, and others, my principal managers, ſome of whom from father to ſon have been for a length of time paſt in my ſervice, and who are employed in my affairs in the Tanjore diſtricts, went out to meet your Lordſhip, and ſhewed you every poſſible attention and reſpect. Although there were ſix thouſand men, and a proportionable quantity of ſtores, in the fort of Tanjore, I gave it up without delay into the hands of my friends, to be guarded and defended by them; and my managers, perſons of conſideration as above-mentioned, purſuant to the orders I gave them, made no oppoſition to the people ſent by you; notwithſtanding which, ſingle guards of your people treated my principal managers, in the face of my numerous army, with more diſhonour and diſgrace than even an enemy is ſubject to, and, after confining them with indignity, ſeized their papers. Public proclamation was alſo made in the fort, and through all the diſtricts of Tanjore, that no one muſt give protection or rice to any of my people, but bring them forth; and even that if any perſon gave ſhelter to any of my ſervants, he ſhould be conſidered as criminal.

Further, not ſatisfied with this, ſixty European horſe, with Seapoys, paſſing the Cavery and Coleroon with great haſte, came ſuddenly to Allyanoor;

ʼlyanoor: what they did there your Lordſhip well knows; my mind is too much agitated to allow of my entering into the relation of it.

After all theſe circumſtances, I cannot tell what were the difficulties thrown in your way to obſtruct the execution of the Company's orders. I never once imagined I ſhould ſuffer ſuch diſgraces. Confuſion has ariſen in the management of the affairs of my Government, and not a ſingle man of the people of my country has any longer any dependence on me.

If your object is to inſpect the accounts of the country, the accounts of every village, according to the eſtabliſhed regulations of this country, are to be found in each village reſpectively. What perſons or what papers are now out of the reach of your authority, that it ſhould be neceſſary for you to apply to me for them?

If your attention is to do juſtice to my creditors and the people of my army, you well know that I have repeatedly both written and ſpoken to you on this ſubject.

You write, "It is very true that you and my other friends, and the friends and well-wiſhers to the proſperity of the Company, have been, and are, and ſtill continue to be very uneaſy about the large arrears of pay due to my troops. That it may perhaps be made appear I have received as much money from the Tanjore country, ſince I was firſt apprized of the Company's orders relative thereto, as would have enabled me to clear off the arrears due to Nazib Cawn's army, and a large part of the arrears due to the reſt of my troops likewiſe. That if I will refer to the letters that have been written to me on this ſubject, I ſhall find that a certain mode had been propoſed to me, and that I had been requeſted in the ſtrongeſt manner to receive an Engliſh garriſon into Tanjore, and to deliver up the place without conditions

to

to Tuljaujee, as the impoſing conditions in ſuch a tranſaction would be highly diſhonourable.

The truth of the matter is this:—The Tanjore country is not all aſſigned for the payment of the arrears due to my troops; one diſtrict only has been aſſigned for that purpoſe, and the whole of the rent of the country has been aſſigned to my creditors. I told you this circumſtance, and at the time of my conſenting to receive a garriſon of my friends into Tanjore, both myſelf and all my counſellors clearly underſtood, from your expreſs declarations, that my deputy Mahomed Nazib Cawn was always to remain in the government of the fort. I was not ſatisfied with underſtanding you in this ſenſe once, but underſtood the ſame meaning from your repeated declarations, and was aſſured in my own mind that Nazib Cawn was always to remain in the fort as Kelladar.

In the ſame manner as my certainty in this matter has been changed to doubt, it may happen alſo that my certainty may be changed to doubt with reſpect to other matters; ſuch as the payment of the arrears due to my troops; their continuing at Mookrumun until the ſaid arrears be diſcharged; my ſhewing you a paper, after it had been tranſlated into Engliſh by Mr. Chambers, which I had written upon this ſubject to Mahomed Nazib Cawn; your approving of that paper; my delivering the paper into your hands; your ſending it encloſed in a letter from your ſelf to Colonel Harper; Colonel Harper's delivering the paper to Nazib Cawn; my troops being accordingly ſatisfied therewith; Nazib Cawn bringing off the troops from Tanjore, by ſtanding ſecurity for the engagement; and laſtly, my troops remaining in Mookrumun, in the expectation of receiving their arrears. If, at the time I conſidered myſelf at a certainty, I had inſtead thereof been under any doubt, I ſhould have aſcertained the matter by writing.

You write, "That you think I and my managers deſerve praiſe for having brought off an army that had ſuch large arrears of pay due to them, but that you never made any agreement on the part of the Company;

that I well know it is the Company's orders the Tanjore country should be restored to the Rajah". What you are pleased to say on this occasion I impute entirely to your goodness, as you yourself were in fact the occasion of the troops being brought off, by approving, sending, and giving sanction to the letter I wrote to Nazib Cawn; it is I therefore who ought to express my applause of your conduct on this occasion.

You write, that you have often represented to me, and will now again tell me, that there is one, and but one way of easing me of the load of arrears due to my troops; which is, that if I will dismiss such part of them as have a large amount of pay due, or cause such of them as you may approve to enter into the Company's service, you will then use your endeavours with Tuljaujee to procure a part of the revenues of his country to be appropriated to the discharge of their arrears; but that I shew no inclination to listen to this proposal, and that you do not know how the Company can in any other respect give me any assistance on the occasion.

You repeat again and again, that an army not regularly paid will always have the ascendant over their masters; that if my troops do not disband themselves, as you hear some of them have done, I must disband them, or my difficulties will go on increasing every day.

With respect to the revenues of the Tanjore country, they were before your arrival from Europe assigned to my creditors and troops, of which I have heretofore informed you. The arrears due to my troops were owing to the crops being gathered in. The grain was to have been delivered to them, but just as they were going to receive their dues, my arrangements were overset. Your Lordship knows, that on such an occasion my character and dignity is concerned, and that as I have many Rajahs in my service of equal degree with Tuljaujee, I cannot submit to receive an obligation of such a kind from one who is my subject and servant.

fervant. The Tanjore country is itfelf anfwerable for the arrears due to my troops and the balances of my creditors, and I refer it to my good friends to do me juftice on this point.

I muft defire you in all circumftances, and upon all occafions, to confider me as the affured and unalterable friend of the Company, the firm and much favoured ally of the King of Great Britain, and the fincere well-wifher of the whole English Nation. There is not in the whole world any thing that is capable of breaking the chain of this friendfhip.

Refolved, that the fort and country of Tanjore be protected in confideration of Pagodas 4 Lacks.

Refolved, that the requeft of the Rajah of Tanjore, not only to garrifon the fort, but to protect the country of Tanjore by the Company's troops, in confideration of his paying Pagodas 400,000 per annum be complied with.

Mr. Mackay's minute thereon.

When Mr. Mackay confented to the letter of the 24th ultimo, wrote from the Board to the Right Honourable the Prefident, he was of opinion, as he is ftill, that it would be more conformable to the orders of the Company to make a feparate agreement with the Rajah of Tanjore for the garrifon of that fort; he neverthelefs agrees to accept of the four Lacks of Pagodas offered by him for the purpofes mentioned in his letter.

Sir Robert Fletcher's minute thereon.

Sir Robert Fletcher approves of the acceptance of the four Lacks of Pagodas, but he cannot change the opinions he gave in Confultation 24th April laft.

Sir Robert Fletcher retires from the Board indifpofed.

The proceedings of the Prefident in the execution of his commiffion approved.

The Board approve of the Prefident's proceedings on his commiffion to Tanjore.

Mr.

Mr. Mackay approves of the Prefident's proceedings, excepting in the feizure of the Dobbeer in the Nabob's country, and in flogging Comero Dubafh on the public parade. Mr.Mackay's exception.

Mr. Jourdan approves of the Prefident's proceedings at Tanjore, excepting in the feizure of the Dobbeer in the Nabob's country. Mr.Jourdan's exception.

Mr. Palmer agrees in opinion with Mr. Jourdan. Mr. Palmer's opinion.

It gives Mr. Dawfon much concern any part of his Lordfhip's proceedings fhould give the Nabob offence; but he fuppofes his Lordfhip found thofe proceedings abfolutely neceffary towards executing the Company's orders to reftore the country of Tanjore to the Rajah; and fuch is his opinion of his Lordfhip's underftanding, honour and integrity, that he cannot but approve of them. Mr. Dawfon's approval.

Mr. Stratton approves of the Prefident's proceedings at Tanjore, excepting in the feizure of the Dobbeer in the Nabob's country. Mr.Stratton's exception.

The Prefident lays before the Board the following letter, in anfwer to two letters from the Nabob to Mr. Stratton during the Prefident's abfence, under date 21ft and 27th ultimo.

To the Nabob.

May it pleafe your Highnefs,

ON reading over the proceedings of Mr. Stratton and the other Gentlemen of the Council, I find two letters from you addreffed to Mr. Stratton, which I fhall now do myfelf the honour to anfwer. To the Nabob, imputing to bad counfellors his diftrefs of mind, on the fubject of the Dobbeer, and information received from him.

That your mind is full of trouble and uneafinefs does not furprize me; bad counfellors have often diftracted a mind as great as your Highnefs's.

Your

Your ſon Ameer ul Omrah perhaps forgot to inform you, that Naroo Pundit, the Dobbeer, after Tanjore was taken, told your ſon he would not deſert his maſter in his misfortunes; and refuſed to act until he carried him to the Rajah, and deſired him to lay his commands upon him. Was it noble, was it generous, was it honourable, was it juſt, to impriſon this venerable old man, between 70 and 80 years of age; this public officer, this firſt officer of the Tanjore revenue; this officer of the public, not your Highneſs's ſervant?

From this man I learnt that your Highneſs had received from the Tanjore country, in the three years you have had it in your poſſeſſion, 40 Lacks of Pagodas, which will be a great ſatisfaction to my employers, as they will be confident that the expenſes your Highneſs has been at could not have amounted to near that ſum.

I learnt alſo from the Dobbeer, that the revenue of Tanjore for this year amounted only to 12 Lacks of Pagodas, that there remained only 3 Lacks to be collected by the Rajah, and that your Highneſs's receipts, orders, and the uſual charge amounted to full 9; *this was a great ſatisfaction to me,* as I truſt it will enable your Highneſs to pay the arrears due to your troops. The good purpoſes the meaſure has anſwered will I hope appear to you a ſufficient reaſon for eſcorting the Dobbeer to Tanjore.

Shall the gates of Arialoor, or any other gates in the Payen-Ghaut, be ſhut againſt the troops of the Company, who have fought for you near 30 years, when they aſk admittance by my authority? I hope not. This would be an improper return to the man who put your Highneſs in poſſeſſion of them, upon your ſolemn aſſurances that there was no diſtinction between you and the Company, and that you wiſhed it only for the appearance it would have with the country powers.

Your letter of the 27th is a matter of the utmoſt aſtoniſhment to me. In the public notice given when the country of Tanjore was reſtored

reſtored to the Rajah, it was expreſsly ſaid,—what he poſſeſſed at the concluſion of the treaty your Highneſs made with him in 1762, no other was meant to be given to him; and the Rajah never expreſſed a wiſh to have more than the Company thought his right.

Nazib Khan received every mark of reſpect when he left Tanjore; and I aſſure your Highneſs that every officer and ſervant I have ſeen of your's has merited, and has received, all the civility I could poſſibly pay to him.

I could ſay more in reply to this letter, but ſhall conclude with giving you the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of my ſteady attachment to your intereſt, and of the wiſh I have that you would put it in my power to render you every ſervice I am capable of.

Being, with the greateſt eſteem,

Your Highneſs's ſincere friend

and humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
13th May, 1776.

PIGOT.

The Preſident lays before the Board the following letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated the 7th inſtant, as entered in Country Correſpondence, No. 38, encloſing copy of a letter of congratulation to him from Hyder Ally Cawn, who recommends to him to keep a ſteady attachment with the Engliſh; and a memorandum from the Dobbeer, reſpecting the neceſſity of orders being ſent to Tondeman not to interfere with the villages belonging to Tanjore, and adviſing of 80000 Cullums of Paddy being already collected at the ſea-ſide, ready for tranſportation. The Preſident likewiſe lays another letter before the Board from the Rajah of Tanjore, as entered in Country Correſpondence No. 39, adviſing of his having received letters of congratulation and preſents from the Marattas, and of his having taken into his ſervice 450 ſpearmen and Dalayets and two companies of Laſcars.

At

At a Consultation,

PRESENT,

Tuesday, 14th May 1776.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.
George Dawson — —
Alexander Dalrymple John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer — —
Geo. Mackay
Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, and Mr. Jourdan indisposed; Mr. Brooke absent.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from Sir Robert Fletcher.

To Richard Joseph Sulivan, Esq. Military Secretary.

SIR,

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher, with letter from Captain Morrison, and desiring that the time of his leaving Council yesterday may be minuted.

I COME to the fort merely to find a letter from Captain Morrison to me, which I beg you to lay before the Board to-day, that their pleasure may be taken upon it. I am not well enough to risk a long Council to-day, and desire therefore you would make my excuse to the Board. Be pleased to minute the time of my leaving Council yesterday, that my sanction may appear to nothing that came under consideration excepting the acceptance of four Lacks of Pagodas from the Rajah, which approbation I left in writing, preserving the opinions I gave in Consultation the 24th of last month, when the Board addressed a letter to the President.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

ROBERT FLETCHER.

The

The following letters to Bombay and Bengal are now read, approved, and ordered to be dispatched. 14th May.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esq. Governor-General, &c. Council of Fort William in Bengal.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

General letter to Bengal, with copy of a letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, and advising of Mr. Chambers's departure for Bengal.

WHEN we did ourselves the honour to write you the 29th of March, we informed you that our President was setting out for Tanjore, to execute the orders of the Company received by the Grenville. The Rajah of Tanjore was accordingly restored to his Government on the 11th April, and our President returned hither the 5th instant.

The enclosed is copy of a letter from the Rajah. We did not think it right to take any additional country near Devy Cotah; we have acquiesced in his other requests, and think the benefit to our Honourable Masters, which will arise therefrom, will be very considerable.

Accompanying we send you an extract of a letter enclosed to our President by the Chief of Tellicherry.

Sir Edward Hughes arrived here this morning with his Majesty's ship Salisbury and Swallow sloop.

Mr. William Chambers proceeds to Bengal to serve the Honourable the Supreme Court of Judicature as principal interpreter and Persian translator, in pursuance of the recommendation of your Honour, &c. of the 13th March 1775; his continuance on the Coast has been necessary to this time.

We have the honour to be, with great respect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Fort St. George,
14th May, 1776.

PIGOT &c. Council.

To the Honourable William Hornby, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council of Bombay.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Letter to Bombay, advising of the Rajah of Tanjore's restoration, and enclosing copy of the letter from him.

WE have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 24th March, 8th, 15th April.

When we did ourselves the pleasure to write to you the 29th of March, we informed you that our President was setting out for Tanjore, to execute the orders of the Company received by the Grenville. The Rajah of Tanjore was accordingly restored to his Government on the 11th April, and our President returned hither the 5th instant.

The enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Rajah. We did not think it right to take any additional country near Devy-Cotah; we have acquiesced in his other requests, and we think the benefits to our Honourable Masters, which will arise therefrom, will be very considerable.

Sir Edward Hughes arrived here this morning with his Majesty's ship Salisbury and Swallow sloop.

We are with esteem,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Fort St. George, 14th May, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servants,

P I G O T, &c. Council.

Letter to the Court of Directors via Bombay.

A draft of a letter to the Court of Directors, advising of the restoration of the Rajah of Tanjore, is now read and approved, and ordered to be dispatched by express Pattamars to Bombay, that it may arrive if possible before the departure of the Grenville from the other coast.

At

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Military Department.

Honourable,

WE paid our respects to you by the Ankerwyke and Hillsborough, under date the 14th February, and then acquainted you that the Nabob had admitted your troops into the garrison of Tanjore the 9th of that month.

No persuasions however could induce him to concur in restoring the Rajah. He said he would not oppose the execution of your orders, but would never consent to give up the Tanjore country. So circumstanced, we determined, in consequence of the orders you had been pleased to send us by the Grenville, to restore the Rajah by your authority, and we thought proper to entrust the execution of those orders to our President. He set out the 30th March, and returned from Tanjore the 5th May; and we have now the pleasure to tell you, that the Rajah is put into possession of the whole country his father held in 1762, when the treaty was concluded with the Nabob.

His fort is not only garrisoned by your troops, but his country protected by them also; he has on this account engaged to pay into your cash 400,000 Pagodas annually, and will keep no other troops himself but what are necessary for his guards, the number not to exceed 500. We have the greater satisfaction in informing you of this, as every measure we have taken has been at his request.

And the enclosed copy of the Rajah's letter will we flatter ourselves give your Honours perfect satisfaction. We did not think it right to accept any additional country near Devy Cotah; we have complied with

the Rajah's requeſts in all other reſpects. And our Preſident begs leave to aſſure you, that he cannot expreſs how grateful the Rajah is for the juſtice you have done him, nor how much he merits your countenance and protection.

Fort St. George,
14th May, 1776.

We are, Honourable,

Your faithful humble ſervants,

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
G. Dawſon
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
A. Dalrymple
J. M. Stone
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

At a Consultation,

Thursday, 16th May, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawson	Henry Brooke
Claud Russell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

The King of Tanjore complains of ravages committed by Polygars, who retire across the Coleroon, and also of Tondeman.

READ letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated the 4th instant, representing the necessity of orders being issued for apprehending such Polygars and Cavalygars, as may commit disturbances and plunder and then retire to the other side of the Coleroon, and complaining of Tondeman for disturbing his country, and seizing upon villages that did not belong to him.

In consequence of which the following letter is now ordered to be dispatched to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

Col. Harper ordered to seize such robbers, and deliver them to the Rajah.

The Rajah having having complained that robbers frequently came across the Coleroon and plundered in the Tanjore country, you will take every means in your power to seize such robbers, and deliver them over to the Rajah, that they may be punished as they deserve.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George,
16th May, 1776.

Your most obedient servant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter to the Rajah of Tanjore.

The President lays before the Board draft of a letter that he yesterday dispatched to the Rajah of Tanjore, acknowledging the receipt of the Rajah's letter of the 7th instant; acquainting him that the congratulations he has received from Hyder Ally Cawn and the Marattas have given great satisfaction; that necessary measures shall be taken that the channel of the Malcor Calva is kept in the state it has been these two years past; that orders shall be given that his people are put in possession of Hanamantagoody, Sacaloor and Mangalacotah; that Colonel Harper will receive directions to secure some of the robbers he mentions, and hoping that Tondeman will pay regard to the advice that will be given him to prevent improper behaviour in the Polygars; likewise mentioning that proper people are ordered to receive the Paddy which may be collected.

The following letter to the Rajah of Tanjore is now read and approved.

To the Rajah of Tanjore.

Letter to the Rajah of Tanjore, complying with his request of protecting the country as well as fort of Tanjore, acceptance of four Lacks of Pagodas annually in consideration thereof, and refusing to accept a dependency on Devy Cotah.

SIR,

WITH the greatest satisfaction I tell you, that on my arrival here I found every gentleman of the Council was of opinion with me, that the request you were pleased to make in your letter of the 12th of April should be complied with; namely, that your fort should be garrisoned by the Company's troops, and your country protected by them likewise. They think with me also that the sum of four Lacks of Pagodas per annum is a sufficient and proper allotment for the expenses the Company may be at, and I accordingly accept the same in full thereof. Your resolution to rely upon the Company alone for protection and support, will be a means of strengthening the friendship between you and the Company, and preventing any disturbances in these

parts;

parts; it will be therefore neceſſary to adhere ſtrictly to this reſolution.

Your determining not to keep a greater number of troops for your body guard than five hundred is a mark of your prudence, and I acquieſce in your keeping that number.

I have given orders for proper people to receive on the Company's account what grain you ſhall pleaſe to ſend to the ſea-ſide.

The Eaſt-India Company have no deſire to enlarge their poſſeſſions, and are well ſatisfied with the grant your father was pleaſed to make them of Devy Cotah.

I remain, with the greateſt eſteem, Sir,

Your moſt obedient

16th May, and moſt humble ſervant,

1776. PIGOT.

17th. Sent the following letter to Mr. Paul Benfield.

To Mr. Paul Benfield.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Preſident and Council to acquaint you, that on Monday morning next they intend taking into conſideration your ſeveral letters on the claims which you repreſent to have on the Tanjore country; and further I am directed to inform you, that you are given this early notice, in order that you may prepare and lay before them whatever elſe you may have to offer on that ſubject.

To Mr. Benfield, adviſing him when his letters will come under conſideration.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George, Your moſt obedient Servant,

17th May, 1776. RD JOSEPH SULIVAN, Secretary.

At

At a Consultation,

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton,

Claud Russell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Sir Robert Fletcher, Mr. Dawson, and Mr. Brooke, indisposed.

Read the following letter from Mr. Paul Benfield.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Letter from Mr. Benfield, on the subject of his claims on the Tanjore country.

I HAD the honour to address the Right Honourable President the 13th and 14th, and the Board the 22d ultimo, regarding my claims on the Tanjore country; and I have since been acquainted, that the grain of the present crop, delivered over to me by the Circar on account of my claims, hath been taken possession of by the Company's Seapoys and the people of the Rajah; also of the seizure of that which had been delivered on account of the debts of the inhabitants to the Circar, assigned over to me; and likewise, that my people have been removed from their stations in the mortgaged districts, and from collecting the debts of the inhabitants assigned to me; and that a stop hath been put to my selling the grain of the last year, that I had received from the Nabob, on account of former loans, in the different parts of the Tanjore country. I flatter myself, a just claim, so considerable in itself,

2 will

will meet with due attention, and that your candour will relieve me from the difficulties the late measures have brought me under, while so large a property remains in suspense.

I am with respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Fort St. George, Your very devoted and obedient servant,

6th May, 1776. PAUL BENFIELD.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Letter from Mr. Benfield on the same subject.

IN my former letters I acquainted you, among other matters, that I had grain in several parts of the Tanjore country, and debts due to me from many of the inhabitants, amounting together to about sixty thousand Pagodas; those were independent of my claims on account of the Circar, and the grain was what I had purchased, the produce of a former year. I am now acquainted, that with the same power which had been before exercised, my grain is seized, my people are driven away from collecting the debts due to me from the inhabitants, and grain that those inhabitants had mortgaged, and delivered over to my people as security for their debts, is likewise taken possession of. In this manner am I deprived of my just rights, and my affairs thrown into the utmost disorder, at a time when I had every reason to expect to receive the produce of my several mortgages, &c. when the Subah of Mannargoody, assigned over in mortgage to me, contained at the time I was deprived of it nearly sufficient to have discharged my claims on that district, and when I conceived myself certain of receiving my other claims, as many of the inhabitants had delivered over to me grain in deposite on account of their debts to the Circar.

You must be sensible I am unable to support myself against the difficulties of so considerable a property, thus embarrassed and thrown

S f into

into fufpenfe. I believe that, in the moft cruel time of war, property of individuals of the nations we were at war with hath been held facred and preferved to them; I think this was obferved throughout America and the Weft-Indies all the laft war, where the greateft change of fovereignty happened; furely then I fhall not in the prefent cafe be deprived of my property by the meafures of the Government I live under, and from which I may reafonably expect fupport and protection.

In anfwer to the Letter I received on Friday laft from your Secretary, I have to add, that I have candidly fubmitted you a plain ftate of my claims on the Tanjore country, and fuch as I truft the Nabob will be ready to vouch in an ample manner; what there is further to be offered in fupport of my property, as a fubject under your government, I beg leave to fubmit to the wifdom of your Lordfhip. I am with refpect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your very devoted humble Servant,

Fort St. George,
20th May, 1776.

PAUL BENFIELD.

Minute.

Refolved, That Mr. Benfield's letters do lie upon the table for the confideration of a full Board, and in the mean time that the Secretary do call upon him, purfuant to his letter of the 22d ultimo, to lay before the Board fufficient vouchers, &c. of his claims, as well as to furnifh them with every neceffary information relative to the nature and circumftances of thofe claims, and the periods at which the debts were contracted.

Conformable to the refolution of laft confultation, the following letter was this day fent to Mr. Benfield.

To Mr. Paul Benfield.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Prefident and Council to defire that you will, purfuant to your letter of the 22d ultimo, lay before them fufficient vouchers, &c. of the claims which you reprefent to have on the Tanjore country, and further that you will furnifh them with every neceffary information relative to the nature and circumftances of thofe claims, and the periods at which the debts were contracted.

Letter to Mr. Benfield requiring vouchers of his claims on the Tanjore Country.

I am, Sir,

Your moft obedient Servant,

Fort St. George,
23d May, 1776.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

At a Confultation,

PRESENT,

Monday, 27th May.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Prefident.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawfon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruffell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Read the Minutes of laft Confultation.

THE Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from Mr. Benfield:

To

To Mr. Secretary Sulivan.

SIR,

Letter from Mr. Benfield.

I BEG the favour you will reprefent to the Right Honourable the Prefident and Council, that I have not been able to prepare my letter in anfwer to your's of the 23d inftant, but I fhall be careful it be fent to you to-morrow morning before 10 o'clock.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient fervant,

27th May, 1776. PAUL BENFIELD.

The confideration of his claims deferred.

As Mr. Benfield reprefents his being unable to addrefs the Board to-day, it is refolved to meet at ten o'clock to-morrow morning, to take into confideration the claims which he reprefents himfelf to have on the Tanjore country.

Read letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

To the Right Honourable the Prefident and Council of Fort St. George.

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Letter from Col. Harper. The Chief of the robbers who infeft the Tanjore country an inhabitant of WarriourPollam.

I TAKE the liberty to acquaint you, that I have given ftrict orders to the parties of Seapoys employed in different parts of this country, to apprehend if poffible the robbers that plunder the inhabitants in many parts, and fhall take every means in my power to put a ftop to it; but I am afraid it will be difficult to accomplifh, as by what I can learn the Chief of thefe people refides at Warriour Pollam, by name Mahalinga Padyachee, and detaches parties to effect their robberies in the

the Tanjore diſtricts; he is ſaid to have a large body of men at his diſpoſal. I am, with perfect reſpect,

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Tanjore,
22d May, 1776.

H. HARPER.

The Preſident to apply to the Nabob.

From the above letter it appearing that the Chief of thoſe people who infeſt and plunder the Tanjore country reſides at Warriour Pollam, the Preſident is deſired to repreſent it to the Nabob, and requeſt that orders may be given, that a ſtop may be put to ſuch practices in future.

Letter from the Nabob reſpecting his aſſignment on the Tanjore country, and the ſums received by the Tunkawdars.

Read letter from the Nabob, dated the 22d inſtant, in anſwer to the Preſident's letter of the 13th inſtant, repreſenting his having made over towards the payment of his debts the country of Tanjore, as a pledge or mortgage to ſome of his creditors for about 5 Lacks and 25,000 Pagodas, and to another for about 3 Lacks of Pagodas, excluſive of intereſt. That he learns, from the expreſs declarations of thoſe perſons reſpectively, that one has received about 12,750 Pagodas, and another 8,500 Pagodas; and the troops and other Tunkaw-holders may have received in the ſame proportion. That in any event, whatever may have been the produce of this year, it has not been paid to the Tunkaw-holders, to his troops, nor into his treaſury. That he does not know whether more than about 3 Lacks of Pagodas have been expended of this year's collections on his account, and that what remains, if they have been 12 Lacks, as mentioned by the Preſident, muſt ſtill be in the country.

At a Conſultation. Preſent as before.

Tueſday, 28th May.

THE Board being met, purſuant to yeſterday's reſolution, proceed to take into conſideration the claims which Mr. Paul Benfield repre-

fents to have on the Tanjore country; in confequence of which the following letters are now read:

Letter from Mr. Paul Benfield, dated 22d April, entered in Confultation 24th of April 1776.

Ditto 6th May, ditto 20th May.

Ditto 20th May, ditto 20th May.

Together with the following received from him this morning:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Letter from Mr. Benfield on the fubject of his claims on the Tanjore country, with letter to him from the Nabob.

I HAVE received a letter from your Secretary of the 23d inftant. The nature of my property and claims in the Tanjore country I reprefented to the Right Honourable Prefident previous to the laft Confultation before his departure to Tanjore; and as I could not know there was any intention to deprive me of my property, I conceived fuch reprefentation made to the Prefident of your Board fufficient, efpecially as he was charged with the management of the Tanjore bufinefs. I attended the Right Honourable Prefident to Tanjore, and, previous to the Seapoys taking poffeffion of my property, I furnifhed his Lordfhip with the particulars, in the letter I wrote him on the 13th ultimo, which is before your Board.

My claims on the Subah of Mannargoody are in the following manner:

1775,	Pagodas.
February 7th, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	11,000
9th, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	27,000
Carried over	38,000

May

	Pagodas.		
Brought over	38,000	0	0
May 31ſt, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	63,681	23	50
31ſt, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	10,994	1	62
31ſt, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	8,787	23	50
July 16th, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	13,421	5	20
16th, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	1,276	40	0
Auguſt 23d, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	80,000	0	0
October 31ſt, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	2,500	0	0
November 8th, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	88,949	26	20
17th, By the Nabob's Perwannah, on account of bond debt for advances made by me,	61,480	0	0
Total	369,090	36	42

Thoſe Perwannahs have been duly regiſtered in the Cutcherry at Combagonum by the Dobbeer, and for the diſcharge of them the aſſignment and mortgage of Mannargoody Subah was made over to me, according to the cuſtom of the country, and duly regiſtered in the Cutcherry by the Dobbeer.

The order I was furniſhed with by the Nabob for twenty thouſand Pagodas (20,000 P[s]) on Papanaſhem, was for the like ſum paid by me

me to Nazib Cawn at Tanjore; for his troops, in January 1775; and the order on Puttcotah for fifteen thousand Pagodas (15,000 P^{s}) was for the like sum paid to the Nabob's people at Tanjore, for the service of the fort in November 1774. Those orders have been duly registered in the Cutcherry by the Dobbeer.

The advances made to the inhabitants through the Circar, amounting to one hundred and twenty thousand, six hundred and twenty-nine Pagodas, (120,629 P^{s}) to enable them to carry on the cultivation, were to have been discharged from the inhabitants' shares of the present crop, according to the custom of the country. It had been agreed that the inhabitants' bonds to the Circar should be a security to me for receiving the sum I advanced, and the Dobbeer had accordingly furnished my people with authority from the Cutcherry to collect the amount of those debts.

The Nabob hath furnished me with a certificate of several out-standing concerns I had with him in the Tanjore country, a translate of which I have the honour to enclose you; the original is at hand, for the inspection of your Lordship, &c. should you think it necessary.

When the Company's Seapoys entered the Subah of Mannargoody, it is well known I was in possession of the revenues of that district. At that time I had received grain in deposite within the Subah, on account of the Circar debts, in quantity, on the nearest estimate I can make, it not having been exactly ascertained, about five Lacks of Cullums, (500,000 Cul^{s}); also I had received in deposite, out of the shares of the inhabitants in the several districts, towards the discharge of their debts for advances, on the nearest estimate I can make, the quantity not having been exactly ascertained, about one hundred and sixty thousand Cullums (160,000 Cul^{s}). The revenues and grain have been seized by the Company's Seapoys and the people of the Rajah, and now my property is daily disposing of.

Exclusive of my concerns with the Circar, I had remaining in several parts of the Tanjore country grain which I had purchased of the crop of the former year, in quantity two Lacks, twenty-four thousand and forty-four Cullums, (2,24,044 Cul^{s}) which hath been seized. I have debts due to me from many of the inhabitants, amounting to about sixty thousand Chuckrams, (60,000 Ch^{s}) and about eighty thousand Cullums of grain, on the nearest estimate I can make, the quantity not having been exactly ascertained, were mortgaged and delivered to me on account of those debts; but my people have been driven away from collecting these debts, and the grain seized that had been mortgaged and deposited on that account.

You must be sensible how prejudicial delay must be to me; I hope your Lordship, &c. will give me a letter to the Rajah, that he may cause the grain which was in possession of my people to be immediately restored, and the inhabitants to pay to me such debts as can be proved, according to the custom of the country, to be due from them.

I trust these representations, &c. are sufficiently circumstantial, and that your Lordship, &c. will see justice done to me. I am with respect,

Fort St. George, My Lord and Gentlemen,
28th May, 1776. Your very devoted and obedient servant,

PAUL BENFIELD.

Translation of a Letter from his Highness the Nabob to Mr. Paul Benfield, dated 26th May, 1776.

THE money on account of several bonds which I owe to you, and which was paid by you on my account to the Company for prize money, for repairing the fort of Tanjore, to my troops at Tanjore, and for sundry other purposes, amounted in the whole, to 369,091 Pagodas;

godas; for securing the payment of which to you, I agreed in last November to mortgage to you the revenues of Mannargoody, in the Tanjore country, till your money should be paid off; and in consequence I gave my orders to the Dobbeer, who was there manager of that country, to prepare and sign the deeds of mortgage, and to deliver them to your people, and also to put into their possession the revenues of Mannargoody, according to the custom of the country; and the Dobbeer reported to me, in his letter of the 30th November last, that he had executed my orders: besides which, I gave you a Perwannah on the Papanassy country for 20,000 Pagodas, which you had advanced, in the month of January 1775, to Mahomed Nazib Cawn for the use of my troops; I also gave you a Perwannah for 15,000 Pagodas, which you had advanced for the use of the fort in the month of November 1774.

'It is customary in this country to make advances to the inhabitants, for the purpose of cultivating and planting the land; and in the months of August, September, and October last, when Ameer Ul Omrah Behauder was in the management of the Tanjore country, he made large advances to the inhabitants, for which he took their bonds, payable out of their share of the crops, according to the custom of the country; and to assist me in making these large advances, he took up from you 120,659 Pagodas, for which he gave you his bonds; and to secure the payment thereof, it was agreed with you, that the bonds of the inhabitants should be held by you as security, and that you should receive the monies due by said bonds from the inhabitants until you should be cleared off.

James Wooley, Secretary to
his Highness the Nabob.

Mr. Benfield to be called upon for an account of the sums received

Ordered, That Mr. Benfield be called upon for an account of the particulars of the sums he has received from the Tanjore country, and for the bonds from the inhabitants to Ameer Ul Omrah, mentioned to

 have

have been delivered to him as ſecurity for the money advanced to carry on the cultivation of the country; likewiſe for a particular account of the debts of 60,000 Chuckrams due to him from ſundry of the inhabitants.

by him from the Tanjore country, and ſundry vouchers of his claims.

Mr. Dalrymple delivers in the following Minute:

Minute of Mr. Dalrymple, propoſing to have it diſcuſſed at the Board, whether their public meaſures can ſubject them to proſecutions as individuals.

Endeavours having been uſed to perſuade members of this Board, that they are liable as individuals to proſecutions at law for their conduct in their public capacity concerning the Tunkaws on the Tanjore country, it appears to me eſſentially neceſſary, if any member of this Board has ſuch an opinion, that the grounds for that opinion ſhould be now declared, that the matter may be fairly diſcuſſed.

For my own part I ſhall make no ſcruple to declare, that I do not think myſelf at all liable to any proſecution for executing the Company's orders; nor can I conceive on what grounds it can be ſuppoſed, that either the Company or individuals are or can be ſubject to proſecutions in this matter.

Agreed, That the Board do meet again to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, to take the ſubject of Mr. Benfield's claims into further conſideration.

28th. Conformably to the orders of yeſterday, the following letter has been this day ſent to Mr. Benfield:

To Mr. Paul Benfield.

SIR,

THE Right Honourable the Preſident and Council have directed me to call upon you for an account of the particulars of the ſums you have received from the Tanjore country, and for the bonds from

the

the inhabitants to Ameer Ul Omrah, mentioned to have been delivered to you as ſecurity for the money advanced to carry on the cultivation of the country; likewiſe for a particular account of the debt of 60,000 Chuckrams due to you from ſundry of the inhabitants.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Fort St. George,
28th May, 1776.

29th. Diſpatched the following letter to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal:

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſq. Governor-General, &c. Council of Fort William.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

WE this day received a letter under your addreſs from the Governor and Council of Bombay, which we have now the honour to encloſe you. We are,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervants,

P I G O T, &c. Council.

Fort St. George,
28th May, 1776.

At

At a Consultation,

Wednesday, 29th May, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawson	Henry Brooke
Claud Russell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Read the Minutes of last Consultation.

THE Board having met pursuant to adjournment, the following letter is now read from Mr. Benfield:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I HAVE received your Secretary's letter of yesterday. I have constantly addressed your Lordship, &c. respecting my claims on the Tanjore country, on the following heads:

First, My claim, by virtue of mortgage and assignment, of the revenues of the Subah of Mannargoody, for the Nabob's debt to me of three hundred and sixty-nine thousand and ninety Pagodas, thirty-six Fanams, and forty-two Cash (369,090 36 42 C.)

Second, My claim, by virtue of the Nabob's orders on the Subah of Papanashem, for twenty thousand (20,000) and on the Subah of Puttcotah for fifteen thousand (15,000) Pagodas.

X x Third,

Third, My claims, on account of advances made to the inhabitants through the Circar, to the amount of one hundred and twenty thousand six hundred and fifty-nine (120,659 P^s) for which I have the bonds of Ameer Ul Omrah Behauder, as Naib or manager of the Tanjore country at the time, and the inhabitants' bonds assigned me as collateral security.

Fourth, My property and claims on many of the inhabitants in the Tanjore country independent of my concerns with the Circar.

Of the first. I complain to you of the injuries I have sustained from the measures and conduct of the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, while acting under your commission, in causing the grain that had been deposited with me to be seized by the Company's Seapoys, and in depriving me of the means further to collect the revenues.

The Nabob hath avowed his having made to me the said mortgage and assignment, and the deeds have been registered in the Cutcherry by the public officers, according to the custom of the country. I was put in possession in consequence by the official authority of Dobbeer, who doubtless hath made the Right Honourable Lord Pigot acquainted with these circumstances.

From this Subah my people have received a few thousand Chuckrams. The exact sum I cannot give you, but I believe amounting to about fourteen or fifteen thousand Pagodas; whatever it be, the Dobbeer has taken regular receipts, for which will be duly credited.

The revenues arise chiefly from grain, some of which had been cut and delivered into my possession; what was standing on the ground was surely equally my right; for it is well known, that grain standing on the ground is paid and received as property throughout the whole country.

Of

Under this head, I aſk that you will cauſe my property to be reſtored, and juſtice to be done to me, in ſecuring for me what I am entitled to by virtue of the ſaid mortgage and aſſignment.

Of the ſecond. I hope you will cauſe the orders on Papanaſhem and Puttcotah to be diſcharged, as I have received nothing from them. This claim the Nabob hath likewiſe acknowledged, and it is regiſtered in the Cutcherry.

Of the third. My claim is founded on the bonds of Ameer Ul Omrah Behauder, as Naib or manager of the country at the time, for ſums ſupplied him to aſſiſt in the public advances made to the inhabitants, according to the cuſtom of the country, and thoſe debts of the inhabitants made over to me as ſecurity. The records of the Cutcherry will prove the tranſaction, and from the Dobbeer, the public officer, I had authority to receive theſe ſums.

The bonds of the inhabitants I have not at Madras; I conclude they are either depoſited in the Cutcherry, or in the hands of my people to the ſouthward.

This claim is likewiſe vouched by the Nabob in his letter of certificate. I aſk that the Rajah may cauſe the inhabitants to pay to me what is juſtly due from them on account of theſe advances.

Of the fourth. The inhabitants ſtand indebted to me for balances of account-current; a ſet of books only could furniſh you with the particulars. What I have to aſk of you under this head is, that I may be furniſhed with a letter to the Rajah, to cauſe the grain that was my property, and in poſſeſſion of my people, the produce of the laſt year, (not of the preſent crop) to be immediately reſtored, in quantity two Lacks twenty-four thouſand and forty-four (2,24,044) Cullums; alſo that which had been depoſited with me by the inhabitants on account

of

of their debts, as already ſet forth, and that the ſaid inhabitants do pay to me ſuch debts as ſhall be proved to be juſtly due from them.

My loans and concerns with the Circar have been made known to your Board in the moſt public manner, for I came under engagements to pay to the Dutch the ſum ſtipulated in the treaty made with the Nabob in 1773. Such engagement made an article in that treaty, which I underſtand received the approbation of your Board, alſo of the Court of Directors, and the Courts of England and Holland.

I have further, within the laſt three years, paid into the Company's Treaſury on my own bills, on the Nabob's account, ſums to the amount of nearly twenty Lacks (20,00,000) of Pagodas.

As I am addreſſing you upon a caſe of property, you will doubtleſs allow the degree of freedom that is neceſſary to ſupport my right. I beg your leave to ſuggeſt, that I think Lord Pigot in this inſtance becomes a party; it is by his meaſures, and in the execution of his orders, that I am deprived of my property, and driven to the brink of ruin and deſpair. When I appeal to your candour and to your juſtice, is it conſiſtent he ſhould be one of my judges? Had the meaſures I complain of been adopted by your particular orders, I know not how the ſubject of my repreſentations could have been a queſtion before your Board.

I am with reſpect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your very devoted and

Obedient humble ſervant,

PAUL BENFIELD.

Fort St. George,
29th May, 1776.

In anſwer to that part of Mr. Benfield's letter, where he complains of the injuries he has ſuſtained from the meaſures and conduct of the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, while acting under the commiſſion of the Board, in cauſing the grain that had been depoſited with him to be ſeized by the Company's Seapoys, and in depriving him of the means further to collect the revenues ;

The Preſident deſires that the reſolution of Council, 25th March laſt, may be read, as well as the orders that were given the officers commanding the battalion of Seapoys, and the form of an order from him to ſuch officers as he ſhould ſend on detachment ; in conſequence of which they are now read, and entered as follows :

Extract of Minutes of Conſultation, 25th March, 1776.

The ſafety of Tanjore, and the ſecurity of the Rajah and his family, appearing to make it neceſſary not only that an Engliſh garriſon ſhould be in the fort, but that the country alſo be protected by the Company's troops ;

Reſolved, therefore, To ſend another battalion of Seapoys to the ſouthward, the better to enable the Rajah of Tanjore to collect in his revenues, if this meaſure proves agreeable to him.

To Captain Mackinzie, of the 6th Battalion of Seapoys.

SIR,

YOU are hereby directed to proceed to Mayaveram with the battalion under your command, leaving at Paupanuſum and Combagonum, as you paſs, ſuch part of your battalion as the managers for the Rajah's affairs, Kiſtnaroy and Bapewna, who accompany you, may deſire, to protect the officers of revenue.

I am, Sir,

Tanjore, Your moſt obedient ſervant,

13th April, 1776. PIGOT.

Form of an Order from Captain Mackenzie to his Officers on Detachment.

SIR,

IN consequence of the orders I have received from the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, you will proceed to ——, where you are to protect the officers of the Rajah of Tanjore in the management of revenues.

I am, Sir, &c.

Whereupon the President desires the opinion of the Board, as to the propriety of those orders with respect to the resolutions of Council 25th March last, and the powers vested in him by the Board to carry the orders of the Company into execution.

As I was against the President's having any military authority, I am in doubt whether I ought to give an opinion on any military order given by him. The order now produced, as given by the President to Captain Mackenzie, appears to me conformable to the resolution of the 25th March.

Mr. Jourdan is of opinion, that the orders given by the President are conformable to the resolutions of Council 25th March.

As Mr. Palmer conceives the question before the Board to relate to the orders given to Captain Mackenzie, he thinks them quite consonant to the resolution of the Board 25th March, relative to the putting the Rajah in possession of Tanjore.

I think the orders given by the President were entirely conformable to the resolution of the Board, and to the power vested in him for the purpose of carrying the orders of the Company into execution.

Mr.

Mr. Dalrymple thinks the orders entirely conformable to the refolution of Council 25th March laft.

Mr. Ruffell is of the fame opinion.

Mr. Brooke is of the fame opinion.

Mr. Dawfon is of the fame opinion.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I think the orders not conformable to the refolution of the Board. I think they would have been conformable to that refolution if Lord Pigot had given his orders through Colonel Harper, and not immediately to Captain Mackenzie.

Mr. Stratton is of the opinion, the orders given by the Prefident are conformable to the refolution of Council 25th March.

Refolved, That the above orders given by the Prefident are conformable to the refolutions of Council the 25th of March laft, and the powers vefted in him by the Board to carry the orders of the Company into execution.

Ordered, That the Secretary do furnifh Mr. Benfield with a copy of the orders given by the Prefident to Captain Mackenzie, and the form of an order from him (Captain Mackenzie) to his officers on detachment; and at the fame time that Mr. Benfield be informed, if his people can point out any officer or Seapoy who has acted improperly, and he will reprefent the particulars of fuch behaviour to the Board, the neceffary enquiry fhall be made into their conduct.

The Prefident then moves the following queftion:

That

That the Rajah of Tanjore being put in the full possession and management of his country by the Company's express orders, it is the opinion of the Boaad, that it is not in their power to comply with Mr. Benfield's requests in any respect; those claims on individuals, which bear the appearance of having no connexions with Government, not being sufficiently explained to enable the Board to form an opinion thereon, and the assignment of the Nabob not being admissible.

Mr. Mackay thinks it is in the power of the Board to comply with Mr. Benfield's request in some respects, and will deliver in his reasons for thinking so at the next consultation.

Mr. Jourdan is against the question, and will give his reasons in writing at the next consultation.

Mr. Palmer is against the question, and will give in his reasons at the next consultation.

Mr. Stone for the question.

Mr. Dalrymple for the question.

Mr. Russell for the question.

Mr. Brooke for the question.

Mr. Dawson for the question.

Sir Robert Fletcher against the question, and will deliver in his reasons at the next consultation.

Mr. Stratton againſt the queſtion, and will deliver in his reaſons at the next Council.

The Preſident for the queſtion; and with this ſtronger addition, that he thinks Mr. Benfield has broke through the ſtanding orders of the Company in many inſtances, by his interferences with the Country Governments, as appears by the following extracts from the ſtanding orders of the Company:

Extract of the Honourable Court's Letter, dated 27th October, 1714.

" WE very well like the injunctions, mentioned in the 77th paragraph of your letter by the London, to all our people, that none of them have any dealings with the Country Government in money matters; and earneſtly deſire this may be frequently repeated to all places as our ſtanding irreverſible order, never to be broken on any occaſion, &c."

Carried in the affirmative, ſix to five.

At a Conſultation, Monday, 3d June,

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Preſident.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawſon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

THE Secretary lays before the Board the following letter which he has received from Mr. L'Epine, accompanying an addreſs to them from Sir Edward Hughes.

To Richard Sulivan, Esq.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commodore to send you the enclosed packet, and to request you to deliver it as soon as his Lordship comes to the Fort this morning; and I shall be obliged to you if you will signify your having received it, as the Peons are very apt to make mistakes.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

EDWARD L'EPINE.

St. Thome,
3d June, 1776.

Read letter from Sir Edward Hughes.

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, with copies of a letter from the Nabob to him, and translation of one to Lord Pigot.

IT is with the greatest concern, that I find myself under the necessity of interfering in any respect between the representatives of the Company and the Nabob of the Carnatic; but the accompanying application from his Highness is of so alarming a tendency, that I cannot avoid laying it before you as early as possible; part of the King's instructions to me being to do my utmost to promote the interests of his Majesty, and the advantage of the United Company of Merchants trading to the East-Indies, and of such Indian Princes with whom they have contracted or may contaact engagements; among these the Nabob of the Carnatic holds the most distinguished place.

My

My duty to the King my maſter, my zeal for the Company's welfare, and the feelings I have for ſo good a friend to both, are with me moſt urgent motives for this addreſs; and I have no doubt but that you will take ſuch meaſures in conſequence, as will effectually protect the Nabob from ſuch alarms in future; the national honour and intereſt, as well as the welfare of the Company, being materially connected with the juſt ſecurity of his Highneſs.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

St. Thome, 3d June, 1776. Your moſt obedient and devoted humble ſervant,

EDWD. HUGHES.

His Highneſs the Nabob Wallajau, Ameer ul Hind, Aſuph ud Dowlah, Bahauder, Sepah Salaur, &c. &c. &c. to Sir Edward Hughes, &c. &c.

Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, complaining of Lord Pigot.

THE aſſurances of ſupport and protection I have received from the Grand-father of his preſent Majeſty, and repeatedly from his Majeſty himſelf and the Company, had given me the greateſt confidence, that my rights and my honour would have been preſerved inviolate; but the apprehenſions under which I now labour, from Lord Pigot's unjuſt uſe of his power, have arrived at ſo dangerous an height, that I am obliged to apply to you for your immediate interference in my ſupport.

Lord Pigot, not content with the low and diſgraceful ſtate to which he has reduced my authority, by the meaſures which he executed at Tanjore, has lately threatened to ſubject me to the moſt perſonal diſgrace.

On

On the 27th inſtant, at eight o'clock in the morning, he came to my Durbar, and in the preſence of my brother Morpheuz Cawn Bahauder, and my ſons Omdut ul Omrah, and Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder, and Kerim Moodeen Cawn, declared, in the moſt determined and threatening tone of voice, that he would place an European guard upon my houſe, to keep me a priſoner in his own power; and naming members of the Council, he ſaid they were raſcals, and that he would diſmiſs them from the ſervice; he ſaid alſo, that all the white faced fellows were raſcals, and that he would not allow any of them to ſee me; alſo he aſked Omdut ul Omrah and Ameer ul Omrah why they did not kick out all ſuch raſcals. The cauſe of this outrage was my having written him a letter on the 26th inſtant (a copy of which is encloſed) repreſenting the injuſtice he did me, by ordering a military force to march into the Ramanade country, to deprive me of ſome diſtricts there, and put them into the poſſeſſion of Tuljaujee. Can there be any oppreſſion equal to depriving a man of his right, and then threatening him with the greateſt diſgrace if he dares to make a repreſentation of that right?

As Lord Pigot, on a former occaſion, ordered people to enter my garden in the middle of the night, pretending that he had information that I had ordered ſome people to be ill treated there; ſo that I am under the greateſt alarm that he will proceed to execute in paſſion what he threatened, I ſhall then be without remedy. I value my honour more than my life. As you are the ſervant of the King and Nation, that are my protectors, as you are ſent here for the ſupport of your Sovereign's honour, and the intereſt of the Company, ſo I call upon you, by every duty which you owe to juſtice and your high ſtation, to write immediately to the Board, and to ſettle ſuch meaſures with them, that my power and family may be ſecured againſt Lord Pigot's threats and violence. Such is the juſtice of my cauſe, that I am confident the Company will order me full redreſs for the injuries that have been done to my government and people by Lord Pigot's con-

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duct at Tanjore. But who is to support me against those he threatens at present, unless you represent to the Council my situation? By the established custom I cannot apply to the Council but through the Governor, and my complaint is against himself.

Unless you give immediate aid to the best friend the English ever found in India, he must sink in the sea of oppression.

I solemnly declare, and your knowledge of my conduct has proved it to you, that I am a faithful friend and well-wisher to his Majesty and the Company.

What can I say more?

Given at Chepauk, June 3d, 1776.

(Signed) James Wooley, Secretary
to his Highness the Nabob.

Copy of Translation.

Letter from his Highness the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 26th May, 1776.

Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot.

WHEN your Lordship was at Tanjore I gave positive orders to my managers in that country not to oppose the Company's people. I was soon after informed, that troops belonging to the Company were marched to take possession of some of my countries belonging to Ramnadaporam. As I had not sent any orders to my managers at Ramnadaporam, and God only knew what might happen there, I wrote to Mr. Stratton, who then presided here, expressing my concern, and asking his advice. I have lately repeatedly received letters from Ally Nevauz and Attaw Hussein Cawn, managers of the Ramanade and Shevagunga countries, mentioning the arrival of a Company's officer, with two companies of Seapoys, and some of Tuljaujee's people, to take possession of some districts of those countries; and further, that they intend taking the fort of Hummongoody. Some of the Company's Seapoys are arrived at

Cuttapatnam, and have forcibly turned out my people from thence, and have ſeized and carried away the Amildar, and poſſeſſed themſelves of the revenues and papers. Surely your Lordſhip ſhould acquaint me before you proceed to take poſſeſſion of countries which do not belong to Tanjore, but which entirely depend upon Ramanade and Shevagunga; and you ſhould examine the records, for the word of Tuljaujee is not ſufficient authority for taking poſſeſſion of my country: but you diſregard all rights. My firm friendſhip towards the Company, for theſe thirty years paſt, has been founded on the ſtrongeſt attachment to them and to the Engliſh Nation, and from thence I have lived in the hope of increaſing my honour, reputation, and figure in the world, and which I truſt you will conſider as inſeparably connected with the honour and intereſts of the Company. I am perfectly convinced that the Gentlemen of the Company will not allow me thus to ſuffer, nor ſee injuſtice done me; and I am firmly perſuaded, that as ſoon as they have a full and clear ſtate of affairs here, they will alter their opinion in regard to Tanjore: then why ſhould you deſire to take my other countries? I therefore write your Lordſhip, that you will be pleaſed to give ſtrict orders to your people, that my rights may be preſerved, and that they may not interfere in my authority over my own countries; for ſurely it could never be the intention of the Company, that I, who have been their invariable firm friend for ſuch a number of years, ſhould meet with ſuch treatment; and that one, who was never a friend to the Engliſh, but on the contrary their enemy, ſhould meet with ſuch advantage from their power.

(Copy) EDWARD HUGHES.

The following anſwer to Sir Edward Hughes is now wrote, approved, and ordered to be ſent to him:

To

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in India.

SIR,

WE have the honour of your letter of this day. Our Prefident affures us " That the Nabob has totally mifunderftood him; that he never had a thought of placing a guard over him, although he feared, and expreffed thofe fears to the Nabob, that the encouragement his Highnefs gave to European vifitors, and the impediments to public bufinefs, arifing from the intrigues carried on by them at his Durbar, would lay him under the neceffity to place a guard to bring fuch perfons to him, that he might be acquainted with the nature of their bufinefs. Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, in reply to the Nabob's complaints.

We conclude this will be fufficient to fatisfy you, Sir, that the Nabob's perfon is in perfect fecurity. Our Prefident declares that no wanton indignity was ever intended to his Highnefs, or ever will be committed by him, although his ears can never be fhut to the complaints of the diftreffed; and we affure you that no fuch indignity to the Nabob fhall be countenanced by this Board, to whom the management of the Company's affairs on this Coaft is entrufted.

We have the honour to be, with the greateft efteem, Sir,

Your moft obedient humble fervants,

PIGOT, &c. Council.

The Prefident lays before the Board the following letter, which he has received from the Nabob.

Tranflation

Translation of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, Governor of Madras; dated and received 26th May.

Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot complaining of his conduct towards him.

AT the time of your Lordſhip's being at Tanjore, I ſent ſtrict orders to my ſervants in that country not to oppoſe the Company's people; and upon hearing that a part of the Company's troops had marched to ſeize ſome of my diſtricts dependent on Ramnaut, I inſtantly wrote to Mr. Stratton, then acting Governor, expreſſing my uneaſineſs, and requeſting his advice upon the ſubject, as I had not written to my managers in the Ramnaut country, and did not know what might happen.

I have lately received repeated letters from Aly Nevauz Cawn and Attaw Huſſein Cawn, managers of the Ramnaut and Shoogunga diſtricts, and from others my agents, adviſing me that an European officer, with a company of Seapoys and ſome of Tuljaujee's people, had come there to take my country and ſeize the fort of Hummuntgoody; and that a few of the Company's Seapoys had arrived at Cotapatam, had removed my people by force, ſeized and carried off my Amildar, and taken poſſeſſion of the grain, accounts, and papers: all my affairs and arrangements, and the collections of my country, are by this means ruined. Before the proceeding to ſeize other dictricts, not included in the Tanjore country, and wholly appertaining to Ramnaut and Shoogunga, it would have been proper to have made enquiries of me, and have conſulted records, and not to have conſidered Tuljaujee's declaration as a ſufficient ground and authority for ſeizing my country: but your Lordſhip has not been in the leaſt attentive to any of my rights. My ſteady friendſhip with the Company, for theſe thirty years paſt, has been eſtabliſhed upon the firm foundation of my good will, and cordial attachment towards them and the Engliſh Nation; I hope, therefore, that on this account I ſhall obtain increaſe of honour, reputation, and influence; and I am perſuaded that

1 your

your Lordſhip will not conſider my honour, reputation, and influence, as diſtinct and ſeparate from the honour and intereſts of the Company.

I have the fulleſt confidence that the Company will not approve of ſuch meaſures being taken to the detriment of my affairs, or of the injuſtice done me by theſe proceedings. I am firmly perſuaded, that when the Company ſhall have been fully and truly informed of all facts and circumſtances, they will be induced to change their opinion reſpecting the Tanjore buſineſs; ſo far will they be from approving your Lordſhip's taking other parts of my country. I therefore now write, to deſire that you will be ſo good as to give your people ſtrict orders to act in ſuch manner, as that my rights may be preſerved, and not to interfere with the authority I poſſeſs over my own country; for it certainly was not the Company's intention, that I, who have been ſo many years their true and firm friend, ſhould receive ſuch treatment; and that a perſon, who, ſo far from ever having been their friend, is the enemy of the Engliſh Nation, ſhould be lifted up and advanced by their authority.

What can I ſay more?

The Rajah of Tanjore having repreſented, that many and great inconveniences muſt accrue to his country by the water-channels now cutting in the Iſland of Seringham, the following letters are now wrote, and ordered to be diſpatched:

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

Letter to Colonel Harper reſpecting the water-channels carrying on by the Nabob at Seringham.

SIR,

YOU will forthwith direct Major Stevens to proceed to the Iſland Seringham, to inſpect the water-channels carrying on by the Nabob; and

and if it ſhould appear to him that there is any immediate danger therefrom to the Tanjore country, he will repreſent the ſame to Colonel James.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient Servants,

Fort St. George,
3d June, 1776.

PIGOT, &c. Council.

To Lieutenant-Colonel James, commanding at Trichinopoly.

SIR,

To Colonel James on the ſame ſubject.

LIEUT. COL. HARPER has been directed to ſend Major Stevens to the Iſland of Seringham, to inſpect the water-channels carrying on by the Nabob; and if it ſhould appear to him there is any immediate danger therefrom to the Tanjore country, he will repreſent the ſame to you; in this caſe you will make it known to the Kelladar, who will doubtleſs afford him every aſſiſtance in his power to prevent the damage.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient Servants,

Fort St. George,
3d June, 1776.

PIGOT, &c. Council.

Letter to the Nabob, with copies of the foregoing.

A letter to the Nabob is likewiſe wrote and diſpatched, accompanied with copies of the letters to Lieut. Colonel Harper and Lieut. Colonel James, and requeſting that he will be pleaſed to give his Kelladar at Trichinopoly the neceſſary directions on the ſubject.

The following diſſents were now given into the reſolution of laſt Conſultation reſpecting Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country:

I put

Mr. Mackay's dissent to the resolution of last council respecting Mr. Benfield's claim.

I put my negative on the question proposed by the President at the last consultation;

Because I am of opinion, that the Nabob has a right to the government share of the crop in the Tanjore country for the year Phazully; that is, the crop sown in 1775, and reaped in the beginning of 1776: all the advances for the cultivation having been made by him, and the country having been in his possession until the greatest part, if not the whole of the crop, was cut down; and therefore all assignments or orders given by the Nabob on the Tanjore country, as far as his share of this crop would pay, ought to stand good. On this particular the Court of Directors could not give any precise orders, not probably being acquainted with the time of cultivation, or the time of harvest; and the orders they have given would, in my opinion, as well warrant the seizing any other property the Nabob might have in the Tanjore country, as seizing his share of the crop. Still less can their orders mean, that individuals and British subjects, living under the protection of the Company, should be deprived of their property in that country, by its being taken from the Nabob and given to the Rajah.

Because Mr. Benfield's claims on the inhabitants of the Tanjore country, and for grain of the last year, which was taken from his people, were sufficiently explained, to have induced the Board to give him such a letter to the Rajah as he requested.

Because Mr. Benfield's loans to the Nabob and the inhabitants of the Tanjore country, through the Nabob, do not appear to me to be contrary to the orders of the Court of Directors, which I have seen; for I do not allow the orders of 1710 and 1712, quoted by the President, to be in force now; times and circumstances are so totally changed, that what might be proper then, may not be so at this time; and Mr. Benfield's loans, as far as appears to me, are conformable to the late act of parliament, sent out for our guidance, in lending of money in the

 country

country at the legal interest of 12 per cent; is so far from being an injury to the Company or the natives, that I am well convinced it is an advantage to both, particularly to the latter; nor can I consider Europeans lending money in this manner any way interfering with the country government.

Mr. Palmer subscribes to the above dissent.

Mr. Palmer concurring in opinion with Mr. Mackay, subscribes to his dissent.

Mr. Jourdan's dissent upon the same subject.

I dissent from the resolution of Council of 29th May, touching Mr. Benfield's claims, for the following reasons:

That the Nabob having, by the British arms, been put into, and having had full possession of the Tanjore country, had, as the Lord or Phouzdar of it, an undoubted right to dispose of the revenues, and of course to mortgage the crops upon the ground, or give orders upon them; and I am informed that mortgages of this kind are frequent in the country. That the transactions on which Mr. Benfield's claims are made have every appearance of right. The bonds are for money advanced to the Nabob on the securities of countries, and the sums are certified to have been received. It hath been said, that loans to the Nabob are contrary to the orders of the Company; but I know not of any such. Orders of 1710 and 1712, quoted by the President, cannot, in my opinion, be considered in point; the situation of the Company's affairs having so materially changed since the time those orders were framed, and the Company having, by their assistance to the creditors of the Nabob, given sanction to such loans. Besides, Mr Benfield's having paid the Dutch a sum of money for the account of the Nabob was public, and the Company have not expressed displeasure at it. I always thought, and still do, that it is an usurious rate of interest, and not the persons the loans are made to, which caused the limitations in the act of parliament.

On

On the principles of the Nabob's right to the crop, and Mr. Benfield's claims being juftly founded, and not collufive, I think the orders and affignments mentioned in the three firft articles admiffible; and that this Government ought to inform the Rajah thereof, and to intereft itfelf in obtaining fatisfaction for Mr. Benfield.

The claim on the inhabitants for cafh advanced by Mr. Benfield through Umee ul Omrah, the Deputy, appears to me fo juftly due from the inhabitants, that I am of opinion that a letter ought to be given to him, recommending it to the Rajah to fee juftice done to him, in recovering fuch debts as may be propofed to him to be juftly due.

The feizure of the grain of a crop carries with it an extraordinary appearance; for there could not, in my opinion, be the leaft colour or pretence for it. The Board ought, I think, to intereft themfelves particularly for the reftitution of this, as well as for the recovery of the debts due from the inhabitants.

I cannot conclude without expreffing, that I think, as the Prefident judged he had not authority to give Mr. Benfield any affiftance, he ought, after the information he had received from Mr. Benfield, to have reprefented all the circumftances to the Rajah; and that he would, on his return, lay the claim before the Board for their determination, which I do not recollect that he appears to have done.

I gave my negative at the laft confultation to the Prefident's queftion upon Mr. Benfield's claims; Sir Robert Fletcher's diffent.

Becaufe it appears to me that Mr. Benfield's application is *admiffible*; and whether the obftructions Mr. Benfield meets with arife from acts committed by the authority of this Government, or by the authority of the Rajah after his reftoration, I think he has a claim upon us; I think

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he has a right to our ſupport in the former, and in the latter, has reaſon to expect all the aſſiſtance our influence can give him.

In the latter caſe, I think we ſhould explain to the Rajah the univerſal law of nations, by which it is implied, that the individual is ſtill to be protected in his rights, though the hands of government are changed; and in the former caſe, I do not think we are authorized, by any conſtruction of the Company's orders, to put the Rajah in poſſeſſion of the property in queſtion; on the contrary, I imagine that the part the Company have taken, in changing the Government of the Tanjore country, would make them anxious that the arrangement ſhould take place without obſtruction or impediment to the rights of individuals.

The Company have ever been *attentive* to thoſe rights, where the Government has been changed under their influence, and that attention ought in the preſent buſineſs, I think, to have the weight of authority, with us.

By a late deciſion in our high Courts of Juſtice at home, the Armenians have recovered damages of Mr. Verelſt, for the loſs of property they ſuſtained by his influence in Sujah-ul-Dowla's country; and if his *influence* was deemed *illegal*, I cannot believe that the Company will ſupport us in voting Mr. Benfield's claims to be *inadmiſſible*.

The loans advanced by Mr. Benfield on the crops of the Tanjore country I underſtand to be money actually paid for property purchaſed, which is the ſame thing as if the Nabob had aſſigned to him manufactures in the warehouſe, and ſome in the loom; and upon what principle ſuch property can be ſeized or transferred with the dominion of the country, I confeſs myſelf at a loſs to conceive. The utmoſt extent of the Company's orders was to reſtore the Rajah to his Government.

We

We had information from the Nabob, that when he was put in possession of that Government he was much incumbered with debts, which the Rajah owed to the Dutch, the Danes, and others; that the discharge of them, and the ransom money, had loaded him with debts; and that he had been obliged to mortgage and assign the revenues of the Tanjore and his other countries to raise the necessary sums; besides, that the arrears of his troops, stationed in the Tanjore country for its protection, were likewise ordered upon it by special assignments.

A country government in India, that is only a year's revenue in anticipation or debt, may be said to be in easy circumstances; and whether the Company may not think that we should have consulted with the Rajah, to know his sense of receiving his Government under such circumstances, before we proceeded to shut out the claims upon his country, a future period will shew. The Company, I think, could never mean to establish the Rajah's government upon the ruin of individuals entitled to their protection, whether natives or British subjects.

The Company's orders in the days of Queen Anne, quoted by the President, forbidding their servants to lend money, are entirely null and void as if they never had existed. The late public statute expresses no limitation but the rate of interest, of course it gives a general right to lend at that interest; that statute, more effectually than the Company's orders, prevents the evils they were intended to remedy; and if we commit offences which come within the statute, either by improper loans, or the acceptance of presents, the legal course of trial is in the Mayor's Court.

Having heretofore dissented from the President's being employed upon the Tanjore business, without defined and limited instructions from the Board, and having, previous to his Lordship's departure to Tanjore, mentioned in Council the matter of private property in the Tanjore country, I think it my duty to declare, as a member of this

Government,

Government, that I am in no manner acceſſary to the meaſure, either of obſtructing or ſuperſeding the claims of any private property whatſoever in the Tanjore country, and that therefore I ſtand legally acquitted of all conſequences that the Company or their Agents may be ſubjected to by the meaſure.

Mr. Stratton's diſſent.

I was againſt the queſtion before the Board the 29th of May, becauſe that in ſome reſpects the Preſident and Council have it in their power to comply with Mr. Benfield's requeſts; for I think we may afford him our good offices with the Rajah of Tanjore, without any injury to him, in recovering from the inhabitants of that country the claims mentioned by Mr. Benfield in the 3d and 4th article of his letter, dated the 29th May, which he declares to be juſt and well known to the Dobbeer, the preſent manager, moſt of them being duly regiſtered in the Cutcherry of Tanjore; and as I conclude the Rajah is by this time well acquainted with the nature of theſe claims, I doubt not but he would on an application, afford Mr. Benfield's people every aſſiſtance in his power in the recovery of them from the inhabitants, ſhould they on examination prove juſt.

The firſt article mentioned by Mr. Benfield is a mortgage granted to him by the Nabob on the preſent crop, which in my opinion the Nabob is entitled to by his having advanced very conſiderable ſums of money to the inhabitants for the cultivation thereof; and, agreeable to a cuſtom obſerved all over India, did in conſequence mortgage the government ſhare of certain lands for the payment of the ſums he received from Mr. Benfield.

Mr. Brooke's minute, propoſing to reconſider the proceedings of the laſt conſultation.

Mr. Brooke deſires that the following minute may be entered on this day's proceedings:

When the queſtion was put in Conſultation 29th May, I then underſtood that the tenor of Mr. Benfield's papers was, that he claimed the interpoſition of the Company, as a *right* due to him as a ſubject for the

the recovery of loans within the limitation of the late Act of Parliament of 12 per cent. I was therefore of opinion, that he could not demand this as a matter of *right*, and that it was entirely optional in the Company whether they chuse to interfere or not, the claim of a right and a request as a matter of favour being entirely different; but, upon a re-perusal of those papers, I now understand, that he does not demand, but only requests the interposition of this Board for the recovery of that property, of which he was dispossessed by the manner in which that country was restored to the Rajah. I have also reviewed the 21st paragraph of the Company's separate letter, 12th April, 1775, in which are these words; "And we must suppose that the plunder of the "place, and the receipt of the revenues for more than two years, will "have rendered the Nabob a considerable gainer, after defraying all "charges incurred by his Excellency in the said expedition;" by which I understand they do allow him the enjoyment of the revenue for two years and *more*, that is, from the capture to the restoration of the Rajah. The Nabob was certainly in possession during the said time, and being so in possession, and the revenues so allowed him, they were his property, and he might do with them what he pleased. Mr. Benfield represents, that he was in actual possession of part of the crops produced within the said period, and the Nabob admits of his having assigned part of them to him; as the case now stands, it disallows of the Nabob's right to possess, puts the Rajah in possession of the crop produced within the time limited, and operates in its consequences contrary to the meaning of the Company.

I therefore move, that the Board will be pleased to reconsider the proceedings of the 29th ultimo.

Agreed that Mr. Brooke's request be complied with, and that the Board do meet again on Thursday morning next, to reconsider the proceedings of the 29th ultimo. Agreed.

Read letter from Mr. Paul Benfield.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

From Mr. Benfield reprefenting that he informed the Prefident of his claims before his departure for Tanjore, and fuppofing that applications from the French, &c. fimilar to his, would not be neglected.

AS I underftand that it hath been matter of furprize to fome that my claims on the Tanjore country, had not been reprefented to your Board before the departure of Lord Pigot for Tanjore, I beg leave to remind you that in my letter of the 28th ultimo, I acquainted you that previous to the laft Confultation before his Lordfhip's departure for Tanjore, I reprefented to him the nature of my property and claims in the Tanjore Country. His Lordfhip was at that time, as I underftood, charged with your commiffion to fettle the Tanjore bufinefs. Had his Lordfhip confidered the reprefentation I made to him a matter of importance for the confideration of the Board, I might naturally conclude he would have reported it; and had I not received fuch fatisfaction in words from his Lordfhip, as induced me to believe the reprefentation I had made to him fufficient, I fhould myfelf have acquainted the Board of my claims at that Confultation.

His Lordfhip acquainted me, that he could have no wifh or defire to deliver over the property of his fellow-fubject to a Gentoo, a Pagan; and that if I fent a perfon with him to reprefent on the fpot what was my property, it was enough. I replied to his Lordfhip, that if it was agreeable to him, I would myfelf attend for that purpofe; he defired I would do fo.

Your Lordfhip, &c. will then judge of my furprize, at receiving fuch a letter as his Lordfhip wrote to me at Tanjore, the 13th April laft, in anfwer to my addrefs to him on the very matter which had carried me to Tanjore. On taking my leave of his Lordfhip the next morning, I acquainted him, that had he been as explicit when I applied to him at Madras, it would have been totally unneceffary for me to have attended him to Tanjore.

After the former change of government at Tanjore, I believe the Nabob discharged every claim made on account of that country to the Dutch, to the Danes, to the English, and to the Natives; and had applications of the nature of mine been made to you by the French, the Danes, or the Dutch, I do not suppose they could have been altogether neglected. I hope then your Lordship, &c. will duly consider my several representations, and afford me your assistance and support, in getting restored to me what was my property there when the late change took place, which had chiefly been secured to me by mortgages, &c. according to the custom of the country.

It is an invariable rule throughout the whole country, that grain growing on the ground becomes property from the day it is planted, and is every where delivered over and received as such, and held by the Soucars to be good and sufficient security. I am with respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Fort St. George, 3d June, 1776.

Your very devoted and obedient humble servant,

PAUL BENFIELD.

Ordered to lie upon the table.

At a Consultation;

Thursday, 6th June.

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawson	Henry Brooke
Claud Russell	Alexander Dalrymple
Charles Floyer	John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan.

George Mackay.

The Minutes of last Consultation read.

AGREEABLE to the orders of the Honourable the Court of Directors per Grenville, under date 12th April, 1775, whereby Mr. Charles Floyer

Mr. Floyer takes his seat at the Board.

Floyer is appointed a member of this Government, that Gentleman being arrived, the oaths of allegiance and office are now administered to him by the President, and he takes his seat at the Board accordingly.

Read letter from Sir Edward Hughes.

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

From Sir Edward Hughes.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I HAVE received the honour of your answer to my letter of this day's date; and in order to satisfy the Nabob's mind on the subject of his Highness's application to me as the King's servant, I immediately sent to him a copy of my letter and your reply, which I think cannot fail to produce the desired effect.

I am, with the most perfect esteem and regard,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

St. Thome, 3d June, 1776.

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

EDW[D.] HUGHES.

Minute of the President, and report of the Hircarrah, in answer to a complaint in the Nabob's letter to Sir Edward Hughes.

The President then observes, that there was in the letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, an accusation of his having ordered people in the middle of the night to enter the Nabob's garden, pretending that he had information of the Nabob's having ordered some people to be ill treated there. The President adds, that he thought most of the members of the Council had been acquainted with the case alluded to, and that although he had wished, for the credit of the Nabob, to have taken no public notice thereof, yet for his (the President's) vindication, it appears necessary to mention it at this time.

On the 10th May I received the following report from the head Hircar:

Report of the Head Hircar.

"AFTER the Nabob took the Mawa's country, the Circar's people plundered every thing belonging to the ſaid Mawa's managers; among the reſt one Villayan Chevacar's houſe was plundered; his daughter remained in the ſaid country very poor.

One Verapilla, an enemy to her, told the Nabob that ſhe was worth money, upon which he ordered her to be brought under a guard to him; and accordingly ſhe and two more women and about thirteen men were brought to Chepauk, the Company's bounds, a few days ago; but upon examining the woman there was no money to be got from her as was expected. On this the ſaid enemy told the Nabob, that if he would ſend her back along with him to the ſaid country, he would put her to torture and recover the money. The woman would not go for fear they ſhould murder her; but they are forcing her to go, and ſhe declares, that if ſhe is forced ſhe will kill herſelf. As ſhe is now in the Company's bounds, ſhe ſent to acquaint your Lordſhip of the above violence, and beg you to ſave her life; and as it is my duty to acquaint you with any news or violence that might be committed in the bounds, I thought fit to make this report to your Lordſhip.

The Preſident was upon a viſit and at ſupper when he received this information; and as the Nabob's gardens and thoſe to the Company's houſe join, he ordered the Hircarrah to wait at the gardens till his return, and to watch if theſe people paſſed.

About 11 o'clock the Preſident ſtopping at the gardens in his way to the fort, was informed that the woman was not come away, but that ſome of the people had been carried off towards St. Thome; upon which the Preſident thought proper to direct the officer of the guard

to fend a Havildar and fome Seapoys, who overtook them at St. Thome; and the Prefident at the fame time gave to Saib, one of the Company's waiting Peons, the written information he had received, and directed him to carry it to a houfe of the Nahob's where many of his fervants generally are, and to defire that the woman might not be removed till he faw the Nabob in the morning."

Conformably to the refolution of laft Council to reconfider the refolution of the 29th ultimo, on the fubject of Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, the Board are this day affembled, and proceed to take the fame into confideration.

Mr. Dalrymple requefts further time to confider Mr. Benfield's claims.

Mr. Dalrymple requefts that the confideration of this bufinefs may be deferred till Monday next, as he has not been able to difcufs perfectly the contents of the feveral diffents.

Sir Robert Fletcher objects to delay.

Agreed to by all but Sir Robert Fletcher, who is againft any further delay; becaufe, as Mr. Dalrymple fo readily gave his vote when the queftion was firft moved on the 29th ultimo, he cannot conceive upon what reafonable grounds he now afks for a further delay.

Mr. Dalrymple's minute.

Whereupon Mr. Dalrymple delivers in the following minute:

Mr. Dalrymple gave his vote very readily againft the admiffibility of the Nabob's orders and affignments on the Tanjore country, and was of opinion the private claims were not fufficiently explained; but Mr. Dalrymple requires *much time* to be convinced that this refolution, fo conformable to the Company's orders and the former refolution of the Board, fhould be refcinded.

Agreeably to the minutes of this day's confultation, wrote the following letter to Mr. Paul Benfield.

To

To Mr. Paul Benfield.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Prefident and Council to furnifh you with the accompanying copy of an order from Lord Pigot to Captain Mackenzie, and of the form of an order given to Captain Mackenzie for his officers on detachment; and further I am directed to acquaint you, that if your people can point out any Officer or Seapoy who has acted improperly, and you will reprefent the particulars of fuch behaviour to the Board, the neceffary enquiry will be made into their conduct. I am, Sir, — To Mr. Benfield, with the orders to Capt. Mackenzie, and his officers, defiring information of the officers and Seapoys who have mifbehaved.

Your moft obedient fervant,

Fort St. George, R. J. SULIVAN.
6th June, 1776.

At a Confultation,

PRESENT,

Monday 10th June.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Prefident.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawfon	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruffell	Alexander Dalrymple
Charles Floyer	John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

The minutes of laft Confultation read.

The Board being this day affembled to reconfider a refolution on a fubject that has been a long time under deliberation, Mr. Floyer begs leave to fubmit to their confideration the particulars of his fituation relative — Minute of Mr. Floyer, refpecting the propriety and neceffity of

giving his opinion on Mr. Benfield's claims.

relative to the Chiefship of Masulipatam, of which he is appointed by the Honourable the Court of Directors to take immediate charge, in case of the death, resignation, or removal of Mr. Whitehill, who took his departure for Europe three months ago; and to know whether it is their opinion, that it is proper for him, as the Chief of a Subordinacy, to assist at their Consultations during his stay at the Presidency. When Mr. Floyer is informed of the Board's sentiments on this occasion, he will be better able to judge whether he shall confine his attention chiefly to the business of his particular department, or divide it between that and such matters as may come under the deliberation of this Board. Mr. Floyer further informs the Board, that as the question now before them appears to be of a very important nature, and has already much engaged the attention of the Right Honourable President and the other members, he cannot flatter himself with the expectation of becoming a competent judge of a matter, upon which the opinion to be given should, he thinks, be the result of information and local knowledge, obtained in its every progressive stage. Thus situated, he wishes to decline giving any vote on the occasion, and informs the Board, that if they should be of opinion his voice is necessary, he shall proceed in giving it with the utmost diffidence and concern, for the reasons he has already stated.

Resolution in consequence.

Mr. Floyer not having been present at the discussion of this subject, it is agreed that the reconsideration of it be deferred until Thursday next.

Mr. Dalrymple now delivers in the following minute on the subject of Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country.

Mr. Dalrymple's minute on the nature and property of Mr. Ben-

1. IN considering this subject with due attention, it will be necessary to enter into a minute discussion of the matter, not merely as relating to Mr. Benfield's claims, but as it concerns the Nabob and the Tanjore country, the other claims there may be on that country,

try, the *orders* of the *Company*, as well as the *refolutions* of the *Board*; becaufe confiftency is effential to the dignity of Government.

field's claims, with extracts from the records refpecting the intercourfe of individuals with country powers.

2. The Court of Directors, difapproving the conduct of the Adminiftration here, in difpoffeffing the Rajah, and giving the Tanjore country to the Nabob, in their feparate letter per Grenville (Par. 5, 7, 14, 18) direct that the King of Tanjore, or fome other perfon of his family, if he fhall not be living *at the time of our receipt of thefe orders at Fort St. George, be forthwith* placed upon the throne of his anceftors; declare that they mean no diminution of his authority over his fubjects, pofitively forbid any of the Company's fervants *interfering* in the affairs of *his Government*; and direct, that we take *efpecial care* that this article be *punctually fulfilled* on the part of the Company; and require us to explain to the Rajah, that it is by no means their *intention* to *impoverifh* or *diftrefs* Tanjore.

3. When thefe orders did arrive, the critical fituation of affairs made it requifite to proceed with the utmoft caution and tendernefs. The extreme folicitude of our Prefident to act in concert with the Nabob, made him in fome meafure yield to the delufive promifes and profeffions from Chepauk, which protracted the execution of the Company's orders for fome months. In the latter end of February I expreffed my fentiments in Council, and exonerated myfelf from *all confequences* of further delay; being convinced that the view was to protract the bufinefs till the crops were gathered in, when the Rajah being without treafure, and the country without grain, he would become a heavy incumbrance on the Company, and by that means perhaps give an opening for new machinations.

4. Another member of the Board, who now expreffes his aftonifhment that any man in his fenfes could ever have expected the Nabob's confent, at that time objected to precipitancy; obferving, that a month more would be well beftowed, if by the delay the Nabob's confent would have been obtained.

Fff 5. A

5. A very eſſential queſtion in this buſineſs is, *when* the Nabob's *property* in the Tanjore country ſhall *terminate*.

6. It is very obvious the Company meant, that as ſoon as their orders were *received* at *Fort St. George*, we ſhould proceed *forthwith* to reſtore the Rajah; and therefore *this* ſeems to be the *period*, at which, in conformity to the Company's orders, we muſt conſider the Nabob's claim to *terminate*. Had the Nabob acted *wiſely and becomingly* to the Company, he would have given his aſſent inſtantly to their determination; and ſurely it would be very *incompatible* with *our duty* to the Company to conſider the *oppoſition he has made* to their pleaſure, as a motive for our aſſenting to let that *oppoſition* be *profitable* to *him*.

7. The Court of Directors (in par. 19, 20, 21, 22) aſſign reaſons why they cannot admit the alienation of the countries made over to the Nabob by the Rajah in 1771, judging that he had been amply recompenſed for his expenſes in the firſt expedition; and they add, that "as the expedition againſt Tanjore in 1773 was ſhort, being undertaken in Auguſt, and concluded in September, we apprehend the "revenues of the country could not ſuffer great diminution by that "war; and muſt ſuppoſe, that the plunder of the place, and the receipt of the revenues for *more than two years*, will have rendered the "Nabob a very *conſiderable* gainer, after defraying all charges incurred "by his Excellency in the ſaid expedition." The Company do not ſay, as ſeems to have been underſtood, that the Nabob *ſhall* have the *plunder* of Tanjore, and the receipt of the revenues for more *than two years*; but that they muſt ſuppoſe the plunder and the *receipt* of the *revenues for* more *than two years will* have rendered the Nabob a very conſiderable gainer, after defraying all the charges incurred in the expedition; and therefore any plea he may urge on that pretence, for delaying the payment of his debts, muſt not be admitted.

8. The Nabob having got poſſeſſion of Tanjore in September 1773, and the Grenville not arriving till December 1775, he was in receipt of

of the revenues *for more than two years*, amounting, by the Dobbeer's account, to about 40,00,000 of Pagodas; and if the *Nabob is not a considerable gainer*, let him lay the accounts of his receipts and disburſements before the Board.

9. In the preſent ſtate of Tanjore, charging it with the payment of even ſo conſiderable a ſum as Mr. Benfield's claim, would *impoveriſh* and *diſtreſs* it very *much*, which is contrary to the expreſs intentions of the Company; at the ſame time, although Mr. Benfield is the only perſon who makes this public application, his claims are but a ſmall part of what the Nabob has charged the Tanjore country with, the Dobbeer having informed us the Nabob's orders are equal to 300,000 Pagodas.

10. Admitting the 9th of December, the day when the Company's orders arrived at Fort St. George, to be the *period* at which the Nabob's *poſſeſſion ought* to *terminate*, all the revenues of Tanjore, ariſing after that time, appertain to the Rajah; but the Rajah's claim does not extend to old grain, which had been received by the Nabob as part of the Nabob's revenue of the former year, and ſold to individuals.

11. It has been urged, that the Nabob is entitled to the *preſent crop*, from having advanced money to the inhabitants for *cultivation*; but the Nabob could not be entitled to the crop on that account, becauſe the *only advances* that appear to have been made by the *Circar* to the inhabitants, was not made at the *expenſe* of the Circar, but bonds taken from the inhabitants to be diſcharged out of *their own ſhares* of this *year's crop*; and theſe bonds make a diſtinct claim of Mr. Benfield's.

12. It is now to be conſidered what have been the reſolutions of the Board on the Tanjore buſineſs, and how far the Preſident has acted conformable to thoſe reſolutions.

13. On the 25th March the Preſident gave in a minute, that there was no likelihood of the Nabob's giving his conſent "to our carrying into execution

" execution the Company's orders with refpect to Tanjore; and the " ftate of the crops in that country not admitting of any *further delays*, " he would, with the approbation of the Board, fet out for Tanjore, to " carry the orders of the Company into effect, by *placing* the Rajah in " the full *poffeffion* and *management* of the country." Whereupon the Prefident moved the following queftion: " Whether it was *proper and neceffary* " for him to go to Tanjore, for the *reafons fet forth* in his *minute*." Agreed unanimoufly in the *affirmative*.

14. The Board agreed *unanimoufly*, that it was proper and neceffary, for the *reafons* fet forth in the *Prefident's minute*, that he fhould proceed to Tanjore, to carry into execution the orders of the Company, by *placing* the Rajah in *full poffeffion and management* of the *country*. The *chief* reafon in that minute was, the *ftate* of the *crops*, which, it is now alledged, *were always underftood to be the Nabob's*.

15. The Board determined that Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore, fhould be put under his Lordfhip's orders. The Board agreed unanimoufly, that his Lordfhip fhould take fuch a guard as he thought neceffary, which, by the military regulations, are *under* his *orders*. It was underftood, that Captain Mackenzie's battalion of Seapoys, which was to join his Lordfhip on the road, was meant to come under this defignation. The refolution indeed of the Board, concerning this battalion, was *unanimoufly*, that it fhould be fent to the fouthward, the better to *enable* the *Rajah* of Tanjore to *collect* his *revenues*; although fome members now think the Rajah *could have no revenues to collect*.

16. On the 11th of April, the Rajah was reftored, and Lord Pigot iffued a public order, " Requiring all officers, civil and military, and " all perfons under the protection of the Company, to confider the Ra- " jah of Tanjore as again reftored to the Government of his country,

" in the full extent of that government, at the conclusion of the treaty
" in 1762, and to give him all *proper* aid and assistance."

17. The Rajah being restored to his government, applied to Lord Pigot for troops to protect his officers, and accordingly Lord Pigot ordered Captain Mackenzie's battalion to proceed with the Rajah's managers to *protect* the officers of revenue. The resolution of the Board of 29th May, unanimously confirms the propriety of the orders then given; and although Sir Robert Fletcher denies the conformity of these orders to the resolution of the 25th of March, he thinks if these orders to Captain Mackenzie had passed through Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, they would have been *conformable*. This is a piece of etiquette not worth contesting.

18. The Rajah, in his letter of 12th April, 1776, says, " As
" my finances are in utter disorder, and the state of my country all in
" confusion, I must throw myself upon the Company for my present
" support; I therefore wish them to buy of me at a reasonable rate *all*
" *the grain of the present year*, excepting what my country may be in
" need of; by this means the Company will not be burthened, and I
" shall be enabled to defray the expenses of my government without
" running into debt."

19. The Board agreed to purchase this grain; although I was not present, I very heartily concur in the propriety of the measure; and the *members* of the Board, who *excepted* to the *grain mortgaged* by the *Nabob* to *Individuals*, whilst he had the Government of the Tanjore country, acquiesce in the propriety of purchasing *all other* grain from the Rajah, although now it is denied he *could* have *any grain* to dispose of.

20. On the 24th of April a letter from Mr. Benfield, dated 22d, was read at the Board, containing a letter he wrote to Lord Pigot at Tanjore 13th April, representing his claims on the Tanjore country,

and expreſſing his confidence that his *Lordſhip's juſtice* would *ſecure* to him the *recovery* of his money, when the people in authority from the Nabob were removed from their ſtations in the ſeveral diſtricts: to this letter Lord Pigot replied, that, "Being authorized only to carry "into execution the orders of the Court of Directors for reſtoring the "Rajah of Tanjore, and being by thoſe orders commanded to aſſure "the Rajah, in the Company's name, that they will ſeverely puniſh "every military officer or Company's ſervant, who ſhall in any re-"ſpect interfere in the affairs of his government, &c. He was unable, "without the aid and aſſiſtance of his Council to ſay more in reply to "Mr. Benfield's Letter, than that he would, on his return to Madras, "lay the ſame before them."

Mr. Benfield ſaid in reply, "He could not conceive that *ſetting* "*forth* his *juſt claims* on the Tanjore country can be conſidered in any "*reſpect* to *interfere* in the affairs of the Rajah's government, or that "it could be the *intention* of the Court of Directors, that by the exe-"cution of *their orders* he ſhould be *deprived* of his *right*; that the mode "propoſed will cauſe delay, and would be hurtful to his affairs, ſhould "the *revenues aſſigned to him* be otherwiſe applied than paid to *his ſer-*"*vants*, who are in the *different countries* to receive them."

Theſe letters he laid before the Board, in full confidence that they would afford all reaſonable aſſiſtance to ſecure to him the *recovery of his property*, whilſt Lord Pigot, under *their commiſſion*, remained *in authority over thoſe countries*. This expreſſion, as well as a miſtake made in his firſt letter to Lord Pigot, that his Lordſhip had *directed* all the *inhabitants* of the *Tanjore countries* to *obey* the Rajah as their Prince, ſeems to indicate that he apprehended Lord Pigot was *inveſted* with the *government* of the Tanjore country, which was not the caſe; nor did his Lordſhip *direct* the *inhabitants* of that *country* to obey the Rajah, but only required the ſervants of the Company, and others living under their protection, to conſider the Rajah as reſtored to his government, and to give him all proper aid and aſſiſtance.

21. The

21. The Board determined to poftpone the confideration of Mr. Benfield's letter till Lord Pigot's return, which happened on the 5th of May, fince when many other letters from him have been given in upon the fame fubject.

22. Before Mr. Benfield's claims are confidered, it will be proper to attend to one circumftance, repeated in feveral of his letters, that his property was *feized* by the *Company's Seapoys*; imagining that this was only an inaccuracy of expreffion, I took notice of it at the Board, and recommended that a friend of his fhould mention it to him, that it might be altered. That friend, in confultation 29th, reported that Mr. Benfield faid it was not a miftake, but that the Company's officers had feized his property and avowed the act to himfelf; and in his letter of the 29th, he expreffes himfelf ftronger than in any of his former letters, and fays, I complain to you of the injuries I have *fuftained* from the *meafures* and conduct of the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, while acting under your commiffion, in *caufing* the grain that had been depofited with me to be *feized* by the *Company's Seapoys*, and in *depriving* me of the *means further* to *collect* the *revenues*."

Upon this, the refolution of the Board 25th March, and the *orders* given by Lord Pigot to Captain Mackenzie 13th April, were called for and read. And there being not the leaft authority, in the *orders* given by his Lordfhip, to do more than to *protect* the Rajah's *officers* in the collection of the *revenues*. It was refolved to communicate a copy of thefe orders to Mr. Benfield, and to call upon him for a particular charge againft any perfon who may have tranfgreffed, and that the neceffary enquiry will be then made.

23. No authority having ever been given by this Board, or by Lord Pigot, when at Tanjore, to *feize* property of *any kind* belonging to individuals, I cannot think either his Lordfhip or this Board, in the fmalleft

degree,

degree, reprehenſible for any improprieties which may have been committed, the perſons who have committed them being alone *reſponſible.*

24. Sir Robert Fletcher's diſſent places this matter in a *new light*; it makes me doubtful whether we can with propriety uſe our *influence*, even in thoſe private claims, which on a full explanation might be thought *juſt*; for he ſays, "By a late deciſion in *our high Courts of Juſ-* "*tice* at home, the Armenians have recovered damages of Mr. Verelſt, "for the loſs of property they ſuſtained by *his influence* in Sujah-ul- "Dowla's country."

25. I ſhall never be apprehenſive of executing in the public cauſe, all the authority with which I am inveſted; but ſince uſing any *influence* concerning the property of *individuals* is deemed *illegal*, I cannot ſee with what propriety the individual can requeſt *that influence* to be uſed, eſpecially as, according to this doctrine, the Preſident, who is the oſtenſible perſon, is thereby expoſed to proſecutions, not only from *all other Tunkawdars*, but from the multitude of natives, whoſe intereſts might be affected by this exertion of our *influence*, and whom malevolence or reſentment might induce ſome to ſupport in their proſecutions. I will never join in a bond of indemnity to our Preſident on this account, and without it I cannot ſee how any man can aſk him to put his name to an application of this nature, which may expoſe him to a legal proſecution.

26. Mr. Benfield's Claims.

1. A mortgage or aſſignment from the Nabob of the Subah of Mannargoody, November 1775, till payment of the amount of *money* lent to the *Nabob* on bonds, from 7th February to 17th November 1775, amounting to 3,69,0,90 Pagodas, being according to the Nabob's certificate, for money paid by Mr. Benfield to the Company on his account for *prize money*, repairing Tanjore fort, troops at Tanjore, and ſundry other purpoſes.

2. An

2. An order of the Nabob for payment of 20,000 Pagodas in Paupanasum, paid by Mr. Benfield to Nazib Cawn at Tanjore, for the Nabob's troops, in January 1775. Another order on Putta Cotah for 15,000 Pagodas, on account of the service of the *fort* in 1774.

27. These claims, for which orders and assignments were given on the Tanjore country, are *debts* due from the *Nabob*; and if that *mode of payment* is *ineffectual* to his creditors, it is to *him*, and not to *us*, those creditors should recur.

3. Claim on the inhabitants for advances made through the Circar, amounting to 120,659 Pagodas, for which he has the *bond* of Ameer ul Omrah, as Naib or Manager of the Tanjore country at the time; *the inhabitants bonds* to the Circar, *payable* from the *inhabitants shares of the present crop, according to the custom of the country*, which *bonds* were delivered to him, are not *at Madras*, but he *concludes* they are *deposited* either in the *Cutcherry*, or in the *hands* of his *people* to the *southward*.

Nabob's second son.

Vide Dobbeer's memorandum.

28. Concerning this third claim I must take notice, that I was informed at Tanjore, that Comera (who, I believe, was Mr. Benfield's Dubash, and who I am assured is the *black man* to the southward with *whom he had some mercantile concerns*; vide letter 3d Sept. 1773) had a large quantity of Paddy, which he did not know how to get rid of; that he applied to the Ameer to force it on the country people, and make them accountable to the Circar; that accordingly the Ameer made the country people take it at an exorbitant rate. The Dobbeer's memorandum before us says, "*Advances of grain* for seed and *other purposes* were made to the inhabitants by the Circar at the rate *of* 7 *gold fanams per cullum*, and they were to account for it at the rate of "*two and half gold fanams*;" a most exorbitant rate of usury in my opinion. I do not pretend to say that either of these circumstances relates to Mr. Benfield's claim of 120,000 Pagodas, but I think it behoves this Board to be very well assured that *they do not*. I must add, that a

 friend

friend of mine assured me, that the Ameer told him Mr. Benfield had a great deal of Paddy he did not know what to do with, and that he, the Ameer, had helped him. A man in this country, whose concerns are extensive, is much exposed to be abused by his servants; and the circumstances of the *bill* referred to in the Company's general letter, which are positively affirmed, and which I shall hereafter explain, are strong proofs that Comera was capable of any thing.

4. Property in *grain*, and claims on many inhabitants of the Tanjore country, independent of his concerns with the Circar, amounting together to about 60,000 Pagodas.

29. In one letter, 8th May, he says, the *grain of last year* was received from the *Nabob* on account of *former loans*; in that of 20th May he says, *independent* of his claims on account of the Circar. The *grain* in several parts of the country was what he *purchased*, the produce of a *former year*.

30. In letter 28th he says, the *grain* purchased of *former years'* crop, remaining in several parts of the Tanjore country, was in quantity 224044 Cullums, which hath been seized; and in that of the 29th he asks a letter to the Rajah, to *cause* the *grain* that *was his property*, and *in possession of his people*, the *produce* of the *last year* (not of the *present* crop) to be immediately restored, in quantity 2,24,044 Cullums.

31. I must still think, before we can form any opinion of the justice and propriety of his claims, we ought to know distinctly whether it is grain *purchased*, or received in *payment* from the Circar; and we ought also to know circumstantially when, where, and by whom seized.

32. He says there was, according to the nearest estimate, about 80,000 Cullums of grain *mortgaged* and *delivered* to him on account of the debts from many of the inhabitants, which debts amounted to 60,000 Chuckrams. The nature of these debts seem to me not sufficiently explained.

33. I

33. I am now to examine how far these transactions are consonant to the standing orders of the Company. Mr. Benfield's letter of the 3d September, 1773, in my opinion, clearly explains that he thought such transactions were contrary to the Company's orders; for in the letter he says, "The instant I was advised of the matter I *rejected* it altogether, knowing it my duty to do so, as a *servant* obedient to the *orders* of the Honourable Company;" and the general letter per Grenville, referring to this very letter, says, "And though Mr. Benfield, as a *servant* of the *Company*, very *properly* declined *transacting* this *business*;" which seems clearly to confirm these orders, nor do I think Mr. Benfield having been *concerned* in the *payment* of *bills of exchange*, either to the Dutch or the Company, *without reproof*, can be construed as a revocation of those orders.

34. The undigested state in which the standing orders are, and of which I have repeatedly complained, makes it very difficult to know what the Company's orders are on any subject; but having got a few days delay, I have taken some pains to trace them, and shall therefore endeavour to shew clearly what I have found on this head.

The Company, in their separate letter, 17th March, 1769.

Par. 15. "We cannot suffer considerations of private property to influence our political transactions, nor our Governor and Council, armed with the authority of the Company, to employ it to private purposes."

Select Committee's letter to England, 31st of January, 1770, p. 38. advising the Company of their proceedings concerning the Nabob's creditors, and of the *republication* of a standing order of the year 1714, prohibiting all the Company's servants from having any money transactions with the Country Government, which has given occasion to the creditors to tax us with reviving *obsolete* orders to serve a present purpose, which that order could not have in view at the time it was

made.

made. We are of opinion, that whether such an order had *existed* or *not*, as your representatives, we had a right to publish such a prohibition, if we found it necessary for the safety of the Company's affairs. But it is not fact that the order was *obsolete*; the precise *date* and *words* of it *might* be *unknown* in the Settlement; but it has ever been *understood*, by all residing under your *protection*, as a rule of your service, that all transactions with the Country Governments were to pass through your President, and him only. It is true that of late years the non-observance of this order has been connived at, as is evident by the loans of money that have been made to him by individuals; but we see not why that should preclude you, or us, as your representatives, from enforcing that order, or making a new one, if the case required.

Par. 39. We shall close this disagreeable subject by expressing our confident hope, that should any actions or suits at law be commenced against us, or Messrs. Call, Bourchier, and Mackay, the late trustees, your Honours will support and defend us and them at the Company's charge; since such suits can have no foundation, but for transactions in consequence of your orders, and the discharge of our duty."

In reply, the Court of Directors, under date 30th November, 1770, say,

Par. 6. "We have given due attention to your conduct in respect to the Nabob's debts to individuals, and we have the *satisfaction to find* that your *prudence* and *firmness*, supported by our Council at Fort St. George, (of which Messrs. Stratton, Brooke, and Mackay, were concurring Members) have rendered our orders of 17th March, 1769, in a great degree effectual, without using compulsion to any person whatsoever."

8. "We are here led to remark, that while the private creditors were employing every *effort* of *opposition* and *intrigue* to thwart your *pro-*

ceedings in ſupport of our *indubitable rights*, we were indulging our favourable diſpoſition towards them."

9. Latter part. " As we are unwilling to withdraw that favour which ſo many have *forfeited* by their *pretenſions* to *independent rights*, and that we may not involve thoſe who have ſubmitted their claims to the Company's protection *in the puniſhment which is due to the refractory*, we hereby renew our offer of accommodation with the creditors, without *requiring* them to *refund* any part of the ſums *they may have already received*, and we hope to *convince them* by this *inſtance* of our *moderation* and *ſelf-denial* in reſpect to our own rights, how ſecurely they might have relied on the generoſity as well as juſtice of the Company.

15. " As we have expreſſed our approbation of the conduct of our ſelect Committee in their late tranſactions with the Nabob and his private creditors, reſpecting his debts to them and the Company, it is *unneceſſary* for *us to aſſure* our *ſervants* of *our protection* in all points *wherein* they ſhall *have acted for the intereſts* and in *conformity* to the *orders* of the Company."

Conſultation, 6th November, 1769.

In order to prevent all perſons living under the Company's protection from having any correſpondence or dealings with any of the country powers or their miniſters, without the knowledge and conſent of the Board ; the following advertiſement is ordered to be made public, by affixing it up at the ſea-gate, and ſending a copy round to the Company's ſervants and inhabitants, and by giving it out in general orders; it is alſo ordered to be ſent to the different ſubordinances and ſeveral out garriſons."

Names of the Gentlemen prefent.

Charles Bourchier, Efquire, Governor, Prefident.

Jofias Du Pré	Warren Haftings
John Call	Alexander Wynch
Samuel Ardley	George Stratton
James Bourchier	Henry Brooke
John Whitehill	George Mackay

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEREAS the Honourable Court of Directors of the Eaft India Company did in the year 1714 eftablifh as a ftanding irrevocable order, never to be broken on any occafion, that none of their people fhall have any dealings with the Country Governments in money matters;

And whereas, notwithftanding the faid order, many tranfactions of that kind have, of late years, been fuffered to pafs unreproved;

And whereas the Honourable Court of Directors in their orders to their Prefident and Council on this coaft, dated the 17th May, 1776, fpeaking of the great fums of money, which they underftood to have been lent by their fervants, and others refiding under their jurifdiction, to the Nabob of the Carnatic, at a very high intereft, did order and direct, that from the receipt of the faid orders, the rate of intereft to be taken and received for loans of money fhould not exceed 10 per cent. per annum; but did not therein exprefsly repeat their prohibition of making loans, or having money tranfactions with the Country Governments, whence fome doubts have arifen, whether revocation of the above recited order of 1714, be not implied, and a permiffion tacitly given to make loans, and have other money tranfactions with the Country Governments; that all doubts on this fubject may be effectually removed, the Prefident and Council do hereby declare, that they do confider the faid ftanding order of the year 1714, as unrevoked, and being in full force and vigour; and in

in consequence thereof, they do hereby expresly forbid all servants of the Company, either civil or military, and all other Europeans residing under their jurisdiction, to hold any manner of correspondence, to make loans, or to have any money transactions, of what kind soever the same may be, directly or indirectly, with any of the Princes, Rulers, or Governors of any of the Provinces or States in the East-Indies, or with any of their Ministers or Agents, without the especial licence and permission of the President and Council for the time being;

Except only in such cases as are explained in the resolution of the President and Council, in Consultation of the 27th of March, 1769; which resolution is in the following words;

" It is ordered, that all correspondence and transactions with the country powers, their ministers, or others intrusted with any department of Government or Revenue, be reserved as formerly to the President only at the Presidency, and to the Chiefs of Subordinates, touching the affairs of their respective Chiefships, who are to transmit copies of such correspondence to the President, excepting out of this general Prohibition, such cases wherein any of the Company's servants may be charged with public affairs, requiring such correspondence; and excepting also all military officers on command, who are permitted to correspond touching the affairs of such command only; provided, that in both cases, copies of such correspondence be transmitted by the first convenient opportunity to the President and Council, or to the Chief and Council, under whom such servant, civil or military, shall act at the time;"

RESOLVED, that any wilful deviation herefrom be deemed and construed as a breach of orders, and treated as such.

The Court of Directors, under Date 22d of March, 1771.

Par. 2d. " It is by no means our intention, that the same trustees (for " Nabob's private creditors) or *any other Persons whatever, our President " excepted*, shall be at liberty to correspond with the Nabob on the above " subjects,

" subjects, as they have *heretofore presumed* to do; but that all communi-
" cation between the Nabob and the said creditors be through the
" channel of our Governor and Council, or our Select Committee for
" the time being."

And in their letter, 10th of April, 1771;

14. " WE do hereby direct, that no officer, or other person in our service
" whatever, do presume to lend, or by any means to advance money to
" any of the Nabob's people in the country, where any such officer or
" persons may happen to be; for we have reason to believe from such
" practice great evils have arisen. The officer can on the spot, in the
" time of harvest, secure his own property before the Aumildar can
" possibly take care of the revenue; and the high interest paid by the land-
" holder is a great temptation to the commanding-officer to engage him to
" lend money on the produce of such lands as lie within the reach of his
" guns, or limits of his command. This being, we believe, the prin-
" cipal source of disputes between us and the Nabob on this subject, *we*
" *are determined effectually to crush the evil*; and do therefore *direct*, that
" you *carry* these our orders into *effectual execution*, and *dismiss* every
" person from our service who may presume to act contrary to our
" pleasure hereby signified unto you." 25th March, 1772, par. 64.

Nothing can be more directly in point than the sentiments of the Court of Directors, given with the advice of the ablest Lawyers in England, on the application of the creditors of Mr. William Bolts, late of Calcutta, in Bengal, who was suddenly *seized*, and *sent to England* by the authority of the Governor and Council, desiring directions to give every necessary and proper assistance to Mr. Bolts's agent, for the se-
14th Feb. 1770. securing, collecting, and remitting to England, of his *outstanding concerns*.

On

On a subsequent application from the creditors, they mentioned, that Mr. Bolts's agents in Calcutta had applied to the President and Council, requesting their *assistance* in the recovery of the *debts outstanding*, which, *without such assistance, could not be recovered.* 24th March, 1773. 12th January, 1770.

To which the President and Council did reply, 16th Jan. 1770, that the President would *apply* to the *Ministers* for a perwannah to the Fougdar of Salsett, but refusing their assistance towards the recovery of the outstanding debts, which had arisen on the salt concerns: "As the "Honourable the President and Council have every reason to imagine "that the rest of the demands Mr. Bolts hath made on account of "contracts made for salt, which is a *direct and manifest breach* of the "Company's express orders, *publickly issued by advertisement*, they can "never imagine the Company meant, when they gave directions to "afford effectual assistance in collecting in Mr. Bolts's outstanding con-"cerns, that the Board should assist in collecting *unlawful concerns*, or "that the Company could conceive Mr. Bolts's demands were of such "a nature; nor doth the Honourable President and Council think it in "in their power to afford Mr. Bolts any assistance in the *recovery* of "*balances* incurred by an *illicit trade*, publickly prohibited by the "Company."

The creditors proceed to observe, that whatever questions may be agitated between Mr. Bolts and the Company, whether the salt trade, on which those very balances have arisen was legal or illegal, such *debts* as are *outstanding* thereupon, being *justly due* from the contractors *to his estate*, should have been recovered, whether for the security of the petitioning creditors, or the benefit of such persons as might have a right to damages upon a prosecution for the penalties of such traffic, if illegal; since it cannot be alledged, that it was in any degree *malum in se*: and therefore the money ought not to remain in the hands of those persons, who, on no ground whatever, could have a right to the sums in question.

To this the Court of Directors, by their Secretary, replied, the 6th of April 1773, "That they are still of opinion the President and "Council are not only *excusable*, but *commendable*, in the distinction "they make in the orders sent out to them touching the outstanding "concerns of Mr. Bolts; for the Court of Directors cannot but enter-"tain the same idea with them, of the *very great impropriety of assisting* "any insolvent man, or the creditors of any insolvent man, to *collect in* "*debts contracted* in an *illicit trade*." This being their sense of the matter, and confirmed by some of the ablest lawyers this country ever produced, the Court of Directors find themselves precluded from taking the part desired, until they are satisfied these outstanding debts due to Mr. Bolts were contracted in a *legal* and warrantable commerce, before he quitted the Company's service.

23d April, 1773. On a change of Direction, the creditors renewed their application; to which the Court of Directors, by their secretary, replied, the 13th of May, 1773; "That they have taken into consideration all that has "passed relative to your requisition, repeatedly endeavoured to be en-"forced on the Coast, of laying their commands on the Presidency of "Fort William, to give effectual assistance in the recovery of the out-"standing debts due to the estate of Mr. William Bolts, they are sorry to "find, that the answer given by the late Court of Directors to your "former application on this subject appears so very unsatisfactory; for "after the most impartial discussion of your request, and their answer, "they can by no means agree in opinion with you, that little attention "has been paid to the true principles of justice by that Court of "Directors."

With respect to Mr. Bolts's dealings, previous to the period of his resignation, that Court of Directors insist, that the whole trade in salt, beetle-nut and tobacco, were *expressly prohibited*, *contrary to covenants*, and *consequently illicit*; and that he is now equally responsible, and as liable to prosecution, in that respect, as the Company's servants, against whom suits were lately ordered for carrying on those trades from 1765.

Your

Your arguments, that the *judicial*, *executive*, and *legiſlative* authority in Bengal, is veſted in the Company; that the government there is deſpotic; and that *no debts beyond* the *limits* of the *Company's charter* can be *recovered* without the *interpoſition* of the *ruling power* (meaning the Company and their Preſidencies) the Court of Directors think they are under no neceſſity to conteſt with you on this occaſion, becauſe the admiſſion of all thoſe doctrines appears to them wholly inapplicable to the preſent queſtion; which is *not*, whether their Preſidency *can* give aſſiſtance in the recovery of outſtanding debts, but whether it is *fit* and *right* they ſhould do ſo, when the *trade*, from whence ſuch debts aroſe, was *illegal*.

" The diſtinction taken by you between tranſactions againſt the law " of nature, or the good of ſociety, and thoſe prohibited by ſtatute laws, " or the *poſitive injunctions of thoſe who have a legal right and authority* " *to oppoſe them*, cannot, in the opinion of the Court of Directors, be " at all ſupported by the caſes you ſtate, and the inferences you draw " from them; for the judicial determinations upon theſe ſubjects happen " to be diametrically repugnant to the uſe you would make of them. " In a very recent inſtance, the firſt Court of Law in the Kingdom " would not ſuffer a debt to be recovered againſt the commander of an " India ſhip, proved to be due for goods carried out by him to India; " becauſe it appeared in evidence, that the goods were to be clandeſ- " tinely conveyed on board the ſhip, without the conſent of the Com- " pany, contrary to Act of Parliament. There was no *malum in ſe*, " nothing againſt the law of nature, in the above-mentioned caſe; " nevertheleſs the deciſions have been always uniform, and all demands " of that kind held irrecoverable."

To

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

General letter from Bengal, desiring copy of the proceedings relative to the Company's orders respecting Tanjore.

WE have been favoured with your letter of the 15th April.

The Court of Directors having been pleased to transmit to us a copy of their letter to your Presidency, dated 12th April 1775, containing their commands on sundry very important regulations and arrangements, for the conduct of their political interests in the Carnatic, and expressly commanded us to co-operate with you, and to yield you our assistance in bringing them to a speedy and happy conclusion; we have waited with great impatience to this time for your advices, with respect to the manner in which you have carried those orders into execution; but have hitherto received no information in any way relating to them, except the summary intelligence contained in your letters of the 17th February, and 29th March, that the substance of the Company's orders relative to Tanjore had been communicated to that Rajah; that a garrison of the Company's forces had been admitted to relieve the Nabob's troops in that Fort; and that your President had set out for Tanjore, for the purpose of carrying the Company's orders into effect; but to this time we are totally uninformed of all the previous and intermediate measures and resolutions which have been taken for the accomplishment of the various objects of this general subject, recommended in the general letter above-mentioned, and of the negotiations which have passed between the President, the Nabob, and the Rajah. We therefore desire, that you will transmit to us copies of all your proceedings, which have a relation to this object of your instructions, as well as copies of all your correspondence on the same subject with your President, since his departure.

We are the more desirous of receiving these materials, as we are informed, that an officer at the head of the Company's troops had been

been sent to Eleanore, which we understand is situated without the boundary of the kingdom of Tanjore, to seize upon one or more of the Nabob's officers, and had carried him or them with their papers to Tanjore. This act requires *explanation*. If it was necessary, in order to carry the Company's intentions into execution, you will be justified by your instructions. But this transaction, as far as we are acquainted with it, appears to us a violation of the independent rights of the Nabob of the Carnatic, in which light Mahomed Ally Khan is acknowledged by the treaty of Paris, and that is not warranted by the Company's orders.

We further desire that you will cause copies to be made of all the treaties which are now in force between your presidency and any of the country powers, or which may at any time have been guaranted by you, and transmit them to us by the first opportuinity.

We are,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Fort William, 15th May, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servants,

Warren Hastings,
J. Clavering,
Geo. Monson,
Richard Barwell.

The President acquaints the Board, that he will prepare a letter in answer to the above, which he will lay before them for their approbation at the next consultation. In the mean time it is ordered, that copies of the proceedings and resolutions relative to this subject, as well as of the correspondence with the President, while at Tanjore, be prepared for the Governor General and Council at Bengal; likewise a copy of the treaty concluded in 1762, between the Nabob and the King of Tanjore, and guaranted by the English. Copy of the proceedings to be prepared.

At a Consultation,

P R E S E N T,

Thursday, 13th June, 1776.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
George Dawson	Henry Brooke
Claud Russell	Alex. Dalrymple
Charles Floyer	John Maxwell Stone
Arch. Palmer	Francis Jourdan,

George Mackay.

The minutes of last Consultation read.

The Right Honourable the President, at the last Consultation, having informed the Board he would prepare an answer to the Governor General and Council's letter of the 15th ult. now lays the following before them for their approbation.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esq. Governor-General, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

General letter to Bengal in reply to theirs, desiring copy of the proceedings respecting Tanjore, and the President's explanation of the dobbeers being escorted to Tanjore

WE have had the honour to receive your letter of the 15th of May. Incapable as we are of being intentionally wanting in respect to you, or deficient in our duty, We thought the information contained in our letters of the 17th of February and 29th of March respecting Tanjore, was all which was material at that time. Our political situation has undergone no change except with respect to Tanjore, and our letter of the 14th of May contains a full account of the Rajah's request and of our resolution thereupon; but as you are pleased to desire to have a copy of

of all our proceedings in relation to Tanjore, the ſame ſhall be tranſmitted with all convenient expedition.

Our Preſident acquaints us, " That as he paſſed through the Tanjore " Country, he found the proper officers with all the accounts had been re- " moved by the Nabob's orders from the villages, and was ſoon informed, " that every part of the country was in the ſame ſituation. That every " means had been taken to throw difficulties in his way in the execu- " tion of the Company's orders, and to diſtreſs the country and the inha- " bitants. That without the aſſiſtance of the Dobbeer and his accounts, it " would have been impoſſible for the Rajah to have obtained any know- " ledge of the revenues, or indeed to have been properly placed in the " management of his country this man having been firſt miniſter, and in " fact governed the Tanjore Country for theſe fifty years paſt. That " after Tanjore was taken, he told the Nabob's ſecond ſon, who com- " manded there for his father, " That he would not deſert his maſter " in his misfortunes," and refuſed to act until he carried him to the " Rajah, and deſired the Rajah to lay his commands upon him. That " on his (the Preſident's) proceeding for Tanjore, the Nabob ordered " the Dobbeer to be ſent out of the Tanjore country, with all the " public accounts; the Dobbeer had retarded his journey by vari- " ous pretences, and ſent a meſſage to the Rajah, deſiring that he " might be conducted to Tanjore; the troop which attended the " Preſident was therefore ſent to eſcort him; but when the troop ar- " rived at the place whence the meſſage to the Rajah had been " ſent, they found the Dobbeer had been conveyed from thence to " Arialoor, whither the commanding officer of the troop followed " him and eſcorted him to Tanjore."

" Our Preſident wrote to the Nabob, that if he would pleaſe to " order the ſeveral Amuldars and other officers to return with their " accounts to the Dobbeer at Tanjore, juſtice might be done to " every man, and the country reſtored in a proper and equitable " manner; the Nabob, however, to this day, has not been pleaſed " to do ſo."

" Our

"Our Prefident adds, he has always endeavoured to tranfact the "bufinefs of the Company in the manner moft agreeable to the "Nabob; but his rule has ever been, that the *Company's bufinefs* "*muft be done.*"

We will never lofe fight of the treaty of Paris, but we cannot believe that treaty can be conftrued to obftruct any proper meafures which may be neceffary for the Company's fecurity, or the fafety of the Carnatic.

We have the honour to enclofe you an extract of our honourable Mafter's order to this Prefidency per Royal Henry, dated 25th November, 1755; and alfo of the general letter from England received by the Lord Camden. We have no advices from you on the fubject to which this relates, fince your letter of the 7th of March.

We have intelligence that large quantities of military ftores have been lately landed at Pondicherry; it is alledged that thefe are for Hyder Ally. It is faid that 1200 men have been landed from the fhips of this feafon at the iflands, with a quantity of ftores and ammunition; and that the Ferme, a 64 gun fhip, is daily expected with a frigate at Pondicherry, having on board 400 military, and many of the old officers who ferved in India during laft war.

We have the honour to be,
honourable Sir and Sirs,

Fort St. George,
13th June, 1776.

Your moft obedient and
moft humble fervant,
PIGOT, &c. Council.

The propriety of a certain paragraph put to the vote.

On taking the above letter into confideration, fome members of the board objecting to that paragraph wherein mention is made of of the treaty of Paris, the Prefident moves the following queftion, "Whether the letter fhall ftand as it is, or that the paragraph be "in the Prefident's name?"

Mr.

Mr. Mackay has already disapproved on record of the Dobbeer's being seized in the Nabob's dominions. As he shall always regard that transaction as a violation of the Nabob's rights, he cannot concur in opinion that it was a proper measure, or necessary to carry the Company's orders into execution with regard to Tanjore. He does not object to the paragraph in question standing in the letter to Bengal in the name of the President. Mr. Mackay's opinion.

As the paragraph in question is in answer to a part of the Bengal letter touching the seizure of the Dobbeer, and implies an approbation of that act, Mr. Jourdan cannot approve of it. Mr. Jourdan's opinion.

Mr. Palmer is for the paragraph standing in the name of the President. Mr. Palmer's opinion.

Mr. Stone readily subscribes to the paragraph in question, as he cannot conceive that the article of the treaty of Paris ever was intended to prevent this government taking proper measures for the safety and security of the Carnatic and the Company's possessions. Mr. Stone's opinion.

Mr. Floyer deeming the paragraph in question a general idea of the Board's sense of the treaty of Paris, without adverting to the circumstance of the seizure of the Dobbeer, he on this supposition alone assents to the signing his name to the letter, reserving to himself, if hereafter this matter comes into discussion before the Board, the power of assigning his opinion at large upon the seizure of the Dobbeer. Mr. Floyer's opinion.

Mr. Dalrymple is for the paragraph standing as it is. Mr. Dalrymple's opinion.

Mr. Russell is for the paragraph standing as it is. Mr. Russell's opinion.

Mr. Brooke is for the paragraph standing as it is. Mr. Brooke's opinion.

Mr. Dawson is for the paragraph standing as it is. Mr. Dawson's opinion.

Sir Robert Fletcher's opinion.

Sir Robert Fletcher objects to the paragraph in question standing as a part of the letter in the name of the Board, because it appears to him an implied justification of the measure which the Governor-General and Council of Bengal say appears to them a violation of the Nabob's rights; and Sir Robert Fletcher cannot help saying, that it is a measure which he entirely disapproves.

Mr. Stratton's opinion.

Mr. Stratton having dissented to the seizing of the Dobbeer, he must object to the paragraph, as he thinks it alludes to the report made by the President, and declares that measure to be a proper one by the treaty of Paris. If it did not allude to that report, Mr. Stratton should have no objection to the paragraph standing as it is.

The President's opinion.

The President is for the paragraph standing as it is.

Carried for the question.

Carried in the affirmative by a majority of seven to five, that the letter shall stand as it is.

Mr Floyer delivers in the following minute:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort St. George.

Letter from Mr. Floyer, expressing doubts of his being sufficiently informed to vote on the subject of Mr. Benfield's claims, but submitting to the opinion of the Board.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

PERMIT me to have the honour of representing to you, that after having read with all the attention in my power the several papers and proceedings which are connected with the question at present under the consideration of the Board, I do not in my own mind find myself competent to give an opinion upon it, without that degree of doubt that probably might through life affect my future peace of mind.

There

There is, in my opinion, a wide difference between the degrees of knowledge gained by the private and separate perusal of papers, on any important subject, in its last stage, and that sort of information which a man of candour may require, who has had occasion to be present during the whole course of the operations tending to those debates; or who, as a member of Council, has heard, and personally taken a share in the progressive reasoning upon them.

Thus much, upon the whole, I apprehend, and most sensibly feel, that my doubtful vote may possibly involve this Presidency in great difficulties with the country powers; or it may affect the property and credit of individuals, and in its consequences entail many inconveniences upon this settlement.

I am the more agitated by this impression on my mind, because that if the orders of the Honourable Court of Directors, in any respect, are to be conformed to, I presume my duty calls me immediately to my station at Masulipatam; so that if I give my vote, as is possible, erroneously on this occasion, it may not afterwards be in my power to remedy the inconvenience upon any future discussion at the Board on this subject.

I entertain that opinion of your Lordship, and of the other members of Council, who have thoroughly weighed and considered the question now before you, with all its consequences, some time before my arrival, that I am convinced every member will give his voice, as the result of information and local knowledge he has acquired of this matter, in its every progressive stage. This, it must be confessed, my Lord and Gentlemen, cannot be my case; and therefore I trust I shall stand excused to my Honourable Masters, to your Lordship, and to the other members of the Board, if I wish to decline giving any opinion in the situation and circumstances I have herein stated to you.

However

However, confcious as I am that my private feelings ought to give way to what the Board may think my duty to my Honourable Mafters, I await the fentiments of your Lordfhip and Council on this occafion; to which I profefs myfelf at all times ready to pay the utmoft deference and refpect.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moft obedient humble fervant,

CHARLES FLOYER.

Fort St. George,
13th June, 1776.

Mr. Floyer's letter taken into confideration.

Mr. Floyer acquaints the Board, that in the courfe of the debate on the requeft contained in his letter, he obferves that fome of the members are of opinion he fhould give a vote on the fubject of Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country; wherefore he now declares, that notwithftanding his requeft aforementioned, he will have no objection (to remove the doubts of thofe members) if fuch fhould be their defire.

Mr. Dalrymple's opinion.

Whereupon Mr. Dalrymple defires it to be minuted as his opinion, that every member prefent is bound to give his vote.

Sir Robert Fletcher's opinion.

Sir Robert Fletcher defires it may be recorded as his opinion, that Mr. Floyer ought not to vote on the bufinefs now before the Board, for the reafons contained in his (Mr. Floyer's) minutes entered upon the laft confultation, and the reafons affigned in his letter delivered in this day.

The Prefident moves that the refolution of Council refpecting Mr. Benfield's claims be confirmed.

The Prefident then moves, that the refolution of Council, 29th ultimo, entered as followeth, do ftand confirmed. Refolution, " That " the Rajah of Tanjore being put in the full poffeffion and management " of his country by the Company's exprefs orders, it is the opinion of " the Board, that it is not in their power to comply with Mr. Benfield's

" requefts

" requefts in any refpect, thofe claims on individuals which bear the appearance of having no connection with government, not being fufficiently explained to enable the Board to form an opinion thereon, and the affignments of the Nabob not being admiffible."

Mr. Mackay	Againft the motion
Mr. Jourdan	Againft the motion
Mr. Palmer	Againft the motion
Mr. Stone	For the motion
Mr. Floyer	Againft the motion
Mr. Dalrymple	For the motion
Mr. Ruffell	For the motion
Mr. Brooke	Againft the motion
Mr. Dawfon	For the motion
Sir Robert Fletcher	Againft the motion
Mr. Stratton	Againft the motion
The Prefident	For the motion

Carried in the negative feven to five.

Carried againft the motion.

Mr. Dalrymple acquaints the Board, that Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Mackay having declared they will give an anfwer to his minute, it is impoffible for him, with any propriety, to form any further judgment till he has feen their anfwers: whereupon Sir Robert Fletcher obferves to the Board, that this is mere caballing in Mr. Dalrymple, and that he will deliver in a minute on the fubject.

Mr. Mackay acquainting the Board, that he has fome queftions to move, it is agreed to adjourn till to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, to take the fame into confideration.

At

Friday 14th June.

At a Confultation. Prefent as before.

The Prefi-dent's motion on the na-ture of Mr. Benfield's claims.

The Prefident moves, that the Board may come to the following refolution, " That all the claims of Mr. Benfield are private, and not " public concerns."

Mr. Mackay claims for his motion a prior right to the confideration of the Board.

Mr. Mackay obferves to the Board, that their meeting this morning was in confequence of yefterday's adjournment, to take fome motions he had to make into confideration, and therefore thinks in point of propriety, that his motions fhould be taken into debate before the refolution that is now moved by the Prefident is put to the vote.

Upon which the Prefident having explained what he thinks the cuftom of the fervice, that the bufinefs introduced by him fhould be *firft* taken into debate, defires the fentiments of the Board on this Queftion, " Whether the refolution propofed by him, or the motions intended by " Mr. Mackay, fhould be firft taken into confideration ?"

Debate thereon.

Mr. Mackay is of opinion his motions fhould be firft taken into confideration.

Mr. Jourdan thinks Mr. Mackay having informed the Board that he had a queftion to move before the Board adjourned itfelf, the motions of Mr. Mackay fhould in regularity be determined upon before the Prefident's motion.

Mr. Palmer is of the fame opinion of Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Stone. As he does not conceive that the Prefident's motion has any tendency to preclude Mr. Mackay from making his motion, he thinks the Prefident's fhould be firft confidered.

Mr. Floyer. Shall at all times be happy in paying the utmoft deference and refpect to any motion made by the Prefident, and fhould

 certainly

certainly on this occasion have given it as his opinion the President should have such preference, if Mr. Mackay had not yesterday declared, he had some motions to make upon the subject considered in that proceeding, and that the Board thereupon adjourned till this morning to consider them, therefore he must think, in order and propriety, the motions of Mr. Mackay should first be made.

Mr. Dalrymple. For the proposed resolution of the President being first taken into consideration.

Mr. Russell. As the President's motion does not preclude Mr. Mackay from making the one intended by him, Mr. Russell thinks, for the reasons urged by the President, that his should be first considered.

Mr. Brooke. Shall always pay the greatest deference and respect to the President; had his motion come at the same time with Mr. Mackay's, he should not have a doubt of giving his the preference; but as the Board had adjourned yesterday for the purpose of taking Mr. Mackay's motions into consideration, and as the President had not moved his until this day, Mr. Brooke is of opinion, that in point of regularity, and this particular case, Mr. Mackay's motions should be read first.

Mr. Dawson is of opinion the President's motion have the preference.

Sir Robert Fletcher. As Mr. Mackay does not give up his right, of preference, Sir Robert Fletcher thinks, that in point of right as well as order, Mr. Mackay's motions should first be taken into consideration.

Mr. Stratton is, for the reasons assigned in Mr. Brooke's opinion, for taking Mr. Mackay's motions first into consideration.

The President. In order that he might keep up uniformity to the accustomed and regular manner of conducting the business of the Com-

pany

pany on this coaſt, which has ever to his knowledge originated with the Preſident; he had turned his thoughts towards the propereſt manner of introducing Mr. Benfield's buſineſs again before the Board, which he was about to do, when he moved them to come to the aforegoing propoſed reſolution; he therefore thinks that reſolution deſerves their firſt attention.

Carried for Mr. Mackay's motion.

Carried for Mr. Mackay's motion being firſt put, ſeven to five.

Mr. Mackay's motion.

Whereupon Mr. Mackay moves, "That it is the opinion of the "Board, that the Nabob had a right to the government ſhare of the "crop in the Tanjore country, the produce of grain ſown during the "time it was in his poſſeſſion, and that any mortgages he may have "given on the ſame are good."

The Preſident's minute thereon,

The motion introduced by Mr. Mackay being entirely relative to the ſuppoſed rights of the Nabob, of which the Preſident thinks this Board are not competent judges, he is of opinion Mr. Mackay's queſtion cannot with any propriety be put, as it may tend to the moſt fatal conſequences, and therefore moves, "That Mr. Mackay's queſtion be "not put."

and previous queſtion.

Mr. Mackay's opinion.

Mr. Mackay. For the queſtion being put.

Mr. Jourdan's opinion.

Mr. Jourdan thinks the motion a neceſſary one, as preparatory to any aſſiſtance which the Board may think proper to give to Mr. Benfield, becauſe it is evident that if the Nabob had no right to aſſign the grain or country, Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country fall to the ground.

Mr. Palmer's opinion.

Mr. Palmer. For the queſtion being put.

Mr. Stone's minute.

As the motion propoſed by Mr. Mackay appears to Mr. Stone not confined to Mr. Benfield's claims, in conſequence of the mortgages or aſſignments made to him by the Nabob, but to extend alſo to a diſcuſſion of the general rights of the Nabob to the crops in the Tanjore country,

country, he thinks it improper; fince if the Nabob's rights thereto fhould by a refolution of this Board be declared good and valid, he does not fee how we can avoid fupporting him in the recovery of fuch his rights, and to what lengths we may thereby be led no one can fay; he therefore thinks it fhould not be put.

Mr. Floyer is for the queftion being put for the reafons which he now delivers in, and which he would have laid before the Board yefterday had the matter come then under confideration, hoping to ftand excufed by his Honourable Mafters, by this Board, and by the whole world, if, fituated as he has already reprefented in his letter of yefterday's date, he fhould give an erroneous opinion on the point under determination.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Mr. Floyer's opinion and reply to Mr. Dalrymple's minute of the 10th.

I HAVE perufed, with all the attention in my power, the feveral proceedings of the Board, the feparate letter from the Honourable the Court of Directors, dated 12th April, 1755, per Grenville, and other fundry papers relative to the claims upon the Tanjore country. I fhall on this occafion confine my opinion merely to the matter of property mentioned in the queftion, moved by the Right Honourable Prefident in confultation 29th of laft month, without entering into any matter whatfoever which may not have connection with that queftion, as I deem it foreign to the fubject under debate.

The following queftion was moved by the Right Honourable Prefident on the 29th May laft.

" That the Rajah of Tanjore being put in the full poffeffion of his country by the Company's exprefs orders, it is the opinion of the Board, that it is not in their power to comp'y with Mr. Benfield's requefts in any refpect, thofe claims on individuals, which bear the appearance of having no connection with government, not being fufficiently explained to

enable

enable the Board to form an opinion thereon, and the affignments of the Nabob not being admiffible."

This queftion was carried in the affirmative, fix to five.

At the next confultation held on the third June, in confequence of a minute delivered by Mr. Brooke, requefting a re-confideration of that part of the proceedings relative to the Prefident's minute on Mr. Benfield's claims, the Board agreed, that Mr. Brooke's requeft fhould be complied with, and that the Board do meet again on Thurfday morning next, (the 6th June) to re-confider the proceedings of the 29th ultimo. And by a fubfequent adjournment it is brought to us this day for decifion.

I have alfo perufed with attention the feveral minutes delivered as the feparate opinions of the Members of the Board; that of Mr. Dalrymple's being an abftract of all the public proceedings fince the arrival of the Grenville, and being in my opinion clearly expreffive of the fentiments he entertains of the queftion now before us, and to which I have before faid I fhall entirely confine my prefent opinion, by his repeated references to the public records; that Gentleman will, I flatter myfelf, excufe me if I ground any part of my arguments upon his minute.

Mr. Dalrymple's minute, 6th June, 1776, refers to the following paragraphs of the feparate letter, per Grenville. Paragraph 5th. "And having refolved to contribute, fo far as in us lies, towards the "reftoration of the King of Tanjore, which by every tie of honour we ceived ourfelves bound to do, we hereby direct, that you take the moft *effectual meafures*, without *lofs* of *time*, for fecuring the perfon of the King of Tanjore, &c." and in a fubfequent part of the paragraph— "and inform him, that we have determined to replace him upon the "throne of his anceftors, upon *certain terms* and *conditions* to be "*agreed* upon for the *mutual* benefit of himfelf and the Company,

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"without *infringing* the *rights* of Mahommed Ally Khan, Nabob of the "Carnatic."

Anſwer. Upon the latter part of the paragraph I confeſs myſelf of opinion, much of the preſent matter depends, viz. Mr. Benfield's claims, by virtue of the Nabob's orders and aſſignments upon the Tanjore country; I mean from the words "Certain terms, &c. to the concluſion of the paragraph. If the Board was of opinion that the Nabob had a right, as a property veſted in him by conqueſt, to the crops which he had ſown at his own expenſe; and that by the eſtabliſhed uſages and cuſtoms of the country he, as well as all proprietors of lands, are entitled to reap what is thus ſown, and at his or their diſpoſal, even before the harveſt is gathered. I own, in my idea, that it is a matter which I ſhould have looked upon as a part of the Company's intentions, expreſſed by the words, "certain terms, &c." and ſhould conſequently have expreſſed, had I been at the Board, an inclination, that the Right Honourable Preſident ſhould have been authorized to ſtate to the King of Tanjore the matter of property claimed, either by the Nabob's Naib, or by individuals, upon his country, as a neceſſary preliminary to his being put into poſſeſſion of Tanjore; particularly as by Mr. Benfield's laſt letter to the Board, dated the 3d inſtant, it appears, that he acquainted the Preſident with the nature of claims upon that country; that the Preſident's reply to him was not unfavourable to the application he made to his Lordſhip; and that, with his approbation, Mr. Benfield accompanied him to Tanjore. If this matter, as I have already obſerved, had been timely repreſented to the King of Tanjore, he would have known the claims upon his country, and would undoubtedly have communicated to the Preſident, or to the Board, his ſentiments upon the nature of thoſe claims, touching the propriety or impropriety of them, for the information and conſideration of the Board. The King now reſtored, muſt certainly deem it more conducive to his own intereſt to diſcountenance the claims of

property

property in his country, because his admission of them must tend to dimunition of his own immediate income; and he is now at full liberty to reject or comply with any representations which the Board may make to him, if they are so inclined, not only with respect to Mr. Benfield's claims, but those of any other person, whether British subjects, natives living under the Company's protection, or any other people, which by Mr. Dalrymple's minute I am led to suppose there are, to a very enormous amount.

The question, therefore, which occurs to me on this occasion is, Whether the Nabob was or was not the proprietor, from the established customs of the country, of the revenue, and all other appendages of Ciracr, from the time of his being in absolute possession of Tanjore to the day of the King's restoration? I offer it as my opinion, he undoubtedly was. It is not my province to ask, why the King was not put inio possession of his country immediately upon the receipt of the Company's orders for so doing. If he is deemed so, and he has sown this year's crop, and has granted mortgages and assignments upon any part of the produce of his own lands; and that the other proprietors of lands alsso have done the same, agreeably to the established custom of the country; I cannot entertain a doubt but such assignments and mortgages so made must be deemed valid, provided these transactions were carried on previous to the receipt of the orders of our honourable masters per Grenville, till when the Company themselves acknowledge he was the ruler over the Tanjore country; for their very words in this paragraph are, "Without infringing the rights of Mahomed Ally Khan, Nabob of the Carnatic."

Paragraph 7. "You are however in our name to assure the King of "Tanjore, that no diminition of his authority over his subjects is intended by us; and that we will severely punish every military officer or "Company's servant, who shall in any respect interfere in the affairs "of

" of his government: and you are to take especial care that this ar-" ticle be punctually fulfilled on the part of the Company."

This Paragraph (7) contains a standing order for our future government, after the King is put in possession of his country; and cannot possibly, in my opinion, have reference to any transactions in that country during the time of the Nabob's being in possession of it.

Paragraph 14. " You will not fail to explain to the King of Tanjore, " that it is by no means our intention to *impoverish* Tanjore, &c."

Here again my attention is called to the words " impoverish Tan-" jore." It is undeniably the country of Tanjore, which our Honourable Masters tell us plainly they mean not to impoverish; and it is a sentiment which does honour to humanity. I must consider how far, in my opinion, this order has connection with the present subject matter.

Loans have been made to the Ruler of that country, in order to enable him to cultivate his lands, to maintain troops, to defend his country, and the individuals residing under his government, and to the purpose of otherwise supporting and improving his country. If the husbandmen have received from him, or other persons, the usual allowances or encouragements for enabling them to cultivate their lands, upon condition that they should reimburse the amount of such advances from the produce of their labours, where is the appearance of distress to the country, or to its individual inhabitants, the repaying by its own manufactures and agriculture, the amount of sums they have received in specie? If they had not been supplied with the necessary advances from government, or by other means, in due time to enable them to cultivate their lands, there would indeed have been distress, not only to the country, but to every cultivator in it. But the case being otherwise, it appears to me to be an anticipated sale of the internal produce of their labour, which is equal to the exportation of it to foreign markets: if custom (as I am told it does) authorizes the measure, there are

many inſtances I believe in ſeveral counties in England, where the crop is ſold by the farmer, or the cultivator, when growing in the fields.

If a country is in debt, it ſhould deviſe means for diſcharging that debt; and for ſuch parts of the produce of the Tanjore country that have been ſold, I cannot think the country impoveriſhed by an adherence to the ſtipulated terms of ſale. For as I conceive the matter, the debts ſo contracted are not to be paid in ſpecie, but in the produce of a country which has been cultivated by the ſpecie received into it.

There is only one paragraph of the Honourable Court's ſeparate letter per Grenville, more than I have already noticed, that I think bears an affinity to the immediate queſtion now before us.—It is as follows:

Paragraph 22. "We could wiſh you to obtain a ſtatement of the
" Nabob's receipts and diſburſements on the above account, (the plun-
" der of Tanjore, and the receipt of the revenues for more than two
" years) but we fear it is impracticable; however, we recommend it to
" your attention, in order to prevent him from pleading the above cir-
" cumſtance as an excuſe or reaſon for delaying payment of his debts
" to the Company, and thoſe to his private European creditors, in caſe
" they ſhould be ſpeedily demanded."

If I am to form my judgment of the ſpirit and very words of the foregoing paragraph, it is, that the Company, foreſeeing the difficulties which might probably ariſe from a queſtion of the Nabob's property in the kingdom of Tanjore whilſt he was ruler of it, after the King's reſtoration they were deſirous of the Board's adjuſting this matter by an obtainment of the Nabob's receipts and diſburſements on the above account, previous to the reſtoration of the King of Tanjore, as well for their own information on that head, as to put it by previous meaſures adopted by the Board, beyond the power of contention hereafter between the Nabob and the King of Tanjore, in order that the Nabob ſhould have

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no excuſe or reaſon for delaying payment of his debts to the Company, and thoſe to his private European creditors, in caſe they ſhould be ſpeedily demanded.

From the arguments and reaſons deduced from this my minute I now proceed, but with the utmoſt diffidence, to offer my opinion upon the queſtion before us.

I have already given my opinion that the Nabob was the ruler of *Tanjore* until the King was actually put into poſſeſſion of his government, and therefore muſt confeſs, I think all mortgages and aſſignments made by him, his Naib or any other perſon acting under his authority, upon that country, for any part of his property whilſt he was ruler of Tanjore, ought to be deemed valid; and that the claims of individuals reſiding under the Britiſh protection, upon the ruler or any individuals of that country, merit admiſſibility; ſo far only as they are become legal by the Britiſh legiſlature.

Mr. Dalrymple thinks Mr. Mackay's motion muſt tend to raiſe the apprehenſion and alienate the mind of the Rajah, which he is convinced is at preſent well diſpoſed to the Company; muſt keep up the animoſity between the Nabob and the Rajah; give great offence to the Marattas, who may perhaps be induced to take a part in this diſpute, and involve the Company's affairs on this coaſt in the greateſt diſtreſs; and he cannot conceive any public motive whatever for running thoſe riſks, as the Rajah has not only readily complied with every requiſition of the Company, but has requeſted the Company to take the entire protection of his country; Mr. Dalrymple's minute.

And therefore he is againſt Mr. Mackay's queſtion being put.

Mr. Ruſſell is againſt the motion being put. Becauſe, whether the Nabob has or has not a right, it is not a matter that falls under the conſideration of the Board. Mr. Ruſſell's minute.

Becauſe

Becaufe, if they do take it into confideration and determine that the Nabob has a right, it will be incumbent on the Board to fupport the Nabob in his pretenfions to the fubjects fo determined to be his right.

Becaufe in cafe of a refufal on the part of the Rajah, the Board will therefore be under the neceffity of affifting the Nabob in afferting what is before determined by themfelves to be his right, which might afford a frefh plea for difpoffeffing the Rajah again of his country.

And becaufe it is *ftate matter*, and not at all connected with the affairs of the Company.

Mr. Brooke's opinion.

Mr. Brooke for the queftion being put.

Mr. Dawfon's minute.

Mr. Dawfon has hitherto declined giving his judgment of the Nabob's claims on the Tanjore country, thinking them not admiffible at this Board; and as the queftion tends to involve the Board in endlefs difficulties, he is not for putting the queftion.

Sir Robert Fletcher's opinion.

Sir Robert Fletcher, is for Mr. Mackay's queftion being put, for the reafons affigned by Mr. Jourdan; and he does not admit any ground for the alarms and apprehenfions mentioned by other members of the Board delivered in their written opinions.

Mr. Stratton's opinion.

Mr. Stratton is of the fame opinion as Sir Robert Fletcher.

The Prefident's opinion.

The Prefident, againft Mr. Mackay's queftion being put.

Carried againft the previous queftion.

Carried in the negative feven to five.

Mr. Mackay's motion put.

Mr. Mackay's queston is thereupon put.

Mr. Mackay	For the queftion
Mr. Jourdan	For the queftion
Mr. Palmer	For the queftion
Mr. Stone	Againft the queftion
Mr. Floyer	For the queftion

Mr.

Mr. Dalrymple	Againſt the queſtion
Mr. Ruſſell	Againſt the queſtion
Mr. Brooke	For the queſtion
Mr. Dawſon	Againſt the queſtion
Sir Robert Fletcher	For the queſtion
Mr. Stratton	For the queſtion
The Preſident	Againſt the queſtion.

Carried in the affirmative ſeven to five.

And carried.

Mr. Mackay further moves; "That a letter be written to the Rajah "of Tanjore to inform him of the above reſolution of the Board, and "to recommend to him to give Mr. Benfield all reaſonable aſſiſtance in "recovering ſuch debts as appear to be juſtly due to him from the in- "habitants, as well as to reſtore to him the grain of laſt year, which "was in the poſſeſſion of his people, and ſaid to be forcibly taken from "them."

Mr. Mackay's motion for a letter to the Rajah, reſpecting the debts of the inhabitants.

The Preſident moves the following amendment to Mr. Mackay's motion, viz. That all be left out commencing with the word Rajah, and the following inſerted in it's room, "Nabob to inform him of the above "reſolution of the Board, and to recommend to him to ſend the ſeveral "Amuldars and officers with their accounts into the Tanjore country, "that the Dobbeer may be enabled to lay before us a true ſtate of the "Nabob's rights to the government ſhare of the crop in the Tanjore "country, the produce of grain ſown during the time it was in his poſ- "ſeſſion, that we may form an opinion how far the mortgages or or- "ders he may have given are good."

The Preſident moves for an amendment in the above motion.

The queſtion is then put, "Whether Mr. Mackay's queſtion ſhall be ſo amended.

Mr. Mackay againſt the amendment.

Mr. Jourdan againſt the amendment.

Mr. Palmer againſt the amendment.

Mr. Stone thinks, as the Rajah cannot determine of the reaſonableneſs and juſtneſs of Mr. Benfield's claims without the particular accounts of the produce of the country, he is for the amendment.

Debate.

Mr. Floyer thinks a part of the amendment propoſed by the Preſident will probably become a neceſſary queſtion to be put to the Board in the courſe of their procedings in conſequence of the reſolution of this day, but at preſent he muſt conceive it to be premature, as the queſtion propoſed by Mr. Mackay ſeems to be immediately tending to and in conſequence of the Board's reſolution.

Mr. Dalrymple for the amendment.

Mr. Ruſſell for the amendment.

Mr. Brooke againſt the amendment.

Mr. Dawſon for the amendment.

Sir Robert Fletcher againſt the amendment.

Mr. Stratton againſt the amendment, becauſe he thinks the Dobbeer can furniſh the Board with every account they can deſire.

The Preſident for the amendment.

Majority againſt the amendment.

Carried againſt the amendment ſeven to five.

Mr. Mackay's motion put.

Mr. Mackay's motion is then put.

Mr. Mackay for the motion.

Mr. Jourdan for the motion.

Mr. Palmer for the motion.

Mr.

Mr. Stone againſt the motion.

Mr. Floyer for the motion.

Mr. Dalrymple thought and declared his ſentiments, that this motion was improper to be put to the vote at preſent, becauſe the Preſident's motion not having been put, it is not determined whether Mr. Benfield's claims are private or public concerns, or whether Mr. Benfield's concerns are conſiſtent with the Company's orders or not; nor indeed are the claims ſufficiently explained, nor has Mr. Benfield given in any charge in conſequence of the Board's information, that no officer of the Company had any authority to ſeize the property of individuals; and till then the Board cannot know whether the grain complained of, as being ſeized, was ſeized by the Rajah's officers or by the Company's, as Mr. Benfield has alledged; and for the further objections he refers to his minute of the 10th inſtant. Mr. Dalrymple's minute.

Mr. Ruſſell againſt the motion.

Mr. Brooke for the motion.

Mr. Dawſon cannot but diſſent to this motion, becauſe he is not ſatisfied of the juſtneſs of any claims Mr. Benfield may have on the Rajah.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the motion.

Mr. Stratton for the motion.

The Preſident againſt the motion.

Carried in the affirmative ſeven to five.

Carried for the motion.

Mr. Mackay then moves, "That it be further recommended to "the Rajah to account with Mr. Benfield for the government ſhare "of the grain in the diſtricts aſſigned to him by the Nabob, and ſaid "to be forcibly taken from his people." Mr. Mackay's motion that the Rajah do account for the government ſhare of the crop.

Mr.

Mr. Mackay for the motion.

Mr. Jourdan for the motion.

Mr. Palmer for the motion.

Mr. Stone againſt the motion.

Debate.

Mr. Floyer thinks, as Mr. Mackay, who has made the motion, tells the Board, that he alludes to the laſt year's crop, which has been aſſigned to Mr. Benfield by the Nabob during the time he was in poſſeſſion of the country, that juſtice requires that the Board ſhould recommend to the Rajah of Tanjore, to cauſe to be reſtored to Mr. Benfield's people ſuch property as has been ſaid to have been with-held from him.

Mr. Dalrymple againſt the motion.

Mr. Ruſſell againſt the motion.

Mr. Brooke for the motion.

Mr. Dawſon againſt the motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the motion.

Mr. Stratton for the motion.

The Preſident's minute and objections to the motions as diametrically oppoſite to the Company's orders, and tending to introduce Comera as manager for Mr. Benfield with the Rajah.

The Preſident is againſt the motion, becauſe it is diametrically oppoſite to the orders that have been received from the Company by the Grenville, which brought their commands for reſtoring the Rajah, and who therein declare, that they will ſeverely puniſh every military officer, or Company's ſervant, who ſhall in any reſpect interfere in the affairs of the Rajah's government; becauſe he ſees clearly that this reſolution of the Council will authorize Mr. Benfield to ſend Comera, the Dubaſh, to tranſact his affairs with the Rajah of Tanjore, who had the inſolence to propoſe to the Rajah the renting of his whole country, and to declare to him that he was ſupported by ſeven members of the

 Council;

Council; and who further told the Rajah, hat Lord Pigot would recommend an Engliſh garriſon to be placed in his fort, which he by all means diſſuaded him from admitting; and moreover, becauſe this Comerah told the Rajah, that Lord Pigot would probably adviſe him to depend on the Company for the protection of his country, which he was by no means to comply with; but on the contrary, to reply, that he would defend his country in the ſame manner as his father, and that he did not want ſuch aſſiſtance.

Carried in the affirmative, ſeven to five.

Carried for the motion.

Ordered, That Comerah, the Dubaſh, be ſent for, as alſo ſuch perſons as were preſent during the converſation between him and the Rajah, as related by Lord Pigot, in order that they may be examined by this Board.

Comerah to attend the Board.

Sir Robert Fletcher here deſires it to be inſerted, that his opinion of the Company's orders by the Grenville is very different from that of the Preſident, as it reſpects the buſineſs now before the Board.

Sir Robert Fletcher's opinion of the Company's orders per Grenville different from the Preſident's.

The Preſident recommends to the Board to come to the reſolution he propoſed to them at the beginning of this debate, and which he wiſhed to have had conſidered before the firſt queſtion that was put by Mr. Mackay, viz. "That all the claims of Mr. Benfield are private "and not public concerns."

The Preſident's queſtion put relative to the nature of Mr. Benfield's claims.

Mr. Mackay is of opinion, that the claims, ſo far as they regard Mr. Benfield are private; but ſo far as they regard the Nabob's aſſignments to Mr. Benfield they are public.

Mr. Jourdan is of the ſame opinion with Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Palmer is of the ſame opinion with Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stone is of opinion they are of a private nature.

Mr. Floyer is of opinion that Mr. Benfield's claims were undoubtedly of a private nature, but from intervening caufes are now become a matter worthy of public confideration.

Mr. Dalrymple is of opinion they are private concerns.

Mr. Ruffell is of opinion they are private concerns.

Mr. Brooke is of opinion that Mr. Benfield's concerns confidered fimply were originally of a private nature, but by the change of government in the Tanjore country, and the Nabob's acknowledgment of the affignments to Mr. Benfield to this Board, they are now become a public object of confideration of the Board.

Mr. Dawfon is of opinion they are of a private nature.

Sir Robert Fletcher thinks them private claims, fo blended with the affairs of the Nabob's government, and confequently fo connected with the intereft of the Company, that they become in fome meafure claims of a public nature.

Mr. Stratton is of opinion that the claims fo far as they relate to Mr. Benfield are of a private, but fo far as they regard the Nabob, that they are of a public nature.

The Prefident is of opinion they are of a private nature.

The Prefident records his intended motion for referring the determination of this fubject to the Court of Directors.

The Prefident acquaints the Board, that he intended to have followed the above motion with a recommendation that this matter might have been referred to the Court of Directors, expreffed in the motion which he now defires may be recorded, as one he intended to have made, "That it appears to this Board, that Mr. Benfield's tranfactions with "the Country Government are contrary to the exprefs orders of the "Company,

" Company, and that any interference therein may raiſe apprehenſions
" in the Rajah of Tanjore, and tend to involve the Company's affairs on
" this coaſt; for which reaſon it is reſolved that this matter be refer-
" red to the Honourable the Court of Directors."

AT A CONSULTATION. Preſent as before. Monday, 17th June, 1776.

MINUTE delivered in by Meſſieurs Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay.

Joint minute of Meſſieurs Stratton, &c. on Mr. Benfield's claims.

The Governor-General and Council have required of this government all our proceedings that relate to the reſtoration of the Rajah of Tanjore. As theſe proceedings do not fully convey the idea on which we aſſented to the acceptance of the four Lacks of Pagodas, and as ſome of the members expreſs alarms and apprehenſions at the late reſolution of Council, we judge it neceſſary to enter the following minute.

Heretofore, when the Nabob refuſed to admit an Engliſh garriſon into Tanjore, and diſcovered inſtances of a deſire to give the Nabob the management of the Tanjore fort and country into the hands of his ſecond ſon, a majority of the Board deemed *that* a meaſure which might in its conſequences prove dangerous to the Carnatic and to the Company's affairs. They repreſented this to the Nabob. They alſo repreſented to the Company, that it was neceſſary the Nabob ſhould be limited to a certain number of troops; that aſſignments of revenues ſhould be given to the Company for the maintenance of the troops kept for the Nabob, and a ſum of money depoſited to enable us to keep the field when neceſſity ſhould require it. A.

When the Company's orders arrived by the Grenville, the Board judged it a favourable opportunity to endeavour to carry into execution, a plan for the better eſtabliſhment of a military force for the general defence of the Carnatic; and on the Preſident's report, we B.

worte

wrote to the Company that we hoped to be able to effect it. The ſum offered to the board by the Rajah in his letter to the Preſident appearing to be a voluntary offer, and nearly his proportion of the general expenſes, the *Board was glad to accept of it*; more eſpecially as this ſum is much leſs than the Rajah's former military charges for the defence of the Tanjore country.

When Mr. Benfield's claims were conſidered on the 29th May laſt, it was carried by a majority againſt the claimant; but on the 14th inſtant it was reconſidered, and it has been reſolved that a letter ſhall be written to the Rajah, explaining to him the Board's opinion, that the government ſhare of the crop is the property of the Nabob, and that they recommend to him to reſtore to Mr. Benfield the grain, that hath been ſaid to have been forcibly taken from his people; and to ſee that juſtice be done to him by the inhabitants.

C. It has been urged that the adjudging of that crop to be the Nabob's is improper, becauſe Mr. Benfield's claims were not warranted by the Company's orders; that they were of a private nature, and that of courſe the Company were not obliged to aſſiſt him in the recovery of them, and that ſuch interference of this Government, might alienate the mind of the Rajah and irritate the Marratas, &c.

To theſe we reply, that it was neceſſary to determine, whether the Nabob had a right to the crop on the ground, for this was tracing it to its ſource. If the Nabob had no right, it was evident that the claims on that crop were ill founded; if he had a right, it became incumbent on the board to take them into conſideration. The poſſeſ-
D. ſion of the country gave to the Nabob an undoubted right to the revenue from the day of the capture until its reſtitution. The crop was ſown during that time, and had it not been for the defection of the inhabitants, it would before the time of reſtitution have been divided.

Governments

Governments do frequently, in this country, mortgage the crop as ſoon as it is ſown, and ſuch mortgages are always deemed valid; beſides, we think this right comes within the Company's orders by the Grenville. The loan made by Mr. Benfield may be contrary to the orders of the Board 1769, but theſe had been deemed of ſo little force, that the government ſaw them daily broken through without remark.

The Company's orders to the Select Committe of the 10th April, 1771, which were not before communicated to the Board, aroſe on complaints from the Nabob againſt Colonel Wood, and other officers in his garriſons, for lending money at an exhorbitant intereſt to his people without his knowledge, and for ſeizing his crops on the ground before his revenues were collected, as will appear from the very paragraph quoted by Mr. Dalrymple, the explanatory part of which he has thought proper not to introduce in his minute; it is the 14th paragraph and begins thus: "We wave entirely at preſent the "conſideration of the conſequences which might naturally be ex-"pected to follow, ſhould a compliance with the Nabob's requeſt, to "withdraw the Company's troops from his forts, take place, becauſe "we are not at all diſpoſed to make the experiment; but in order to "convince the Nabob that our troops ſhall not in the leaſt interfere "with his revenues, we direct, &c." From hence it appears to us, that theſe orders were intended to reſtrain the officers and civil ſervants in the Nabob's garriſons, in lending money in the manner complained of by the Nabob, and which appears to us in no reſpect ſimilar to the loans made by Mr. Benfield. E.

It is well known that the Company have often intereſted themſelves for the European creditors of the Nabob; that they directed the Board to endeavour to put Colonel Wood on the ſame footing with the other creditors; and that in the inſtance of Meſſrs. Charles Smith F.

 and

G. and Monckton, their disapprobation appears *chiefly against* the high rate of interest.

Mr. Benfield, jointly with a Soucar, in 1773, became security to the Dutch for a sum of 484,545 Pagodas, mentioned by the Nabob in his treaty with them, which was laid before the Board, and the President made the following minute on the occasion; that the Nabob had informed him, " That in the course of the negociation, he had re-" quested the assistance of Mr. Benfield, in raising money to com-" ply with the demands of the Dutch, and that the President has " reason to believe, that unless Mr. Benfield had exerted himself in " this business, it would not have been in the Nabob's power to have " accommodated matters so soon with the Dutch." And as the Dutch refused to deliver up the country in their possession, and as the forcing of them might have been attended with national inconveniences, the loans made by Mr. Benfield on that occasion appear to have been of great service, both to the Company and to the Nabob, and to have been with the approbation of the Board; and the silence of the Court of Directors thereupon implies their approbation.

How could we then, after the consideration of these circumstances,
I. with any propriety admit, that these *loans were contrary to the orders of the Board and of the Company?* Besides, the late Act of Parliament restrains only the rate of interest, and does not except to the condition of the borrower; we will on this subject add, that we think such loans are not a prejudice, but an advantage to the Nabob's government; it is supplying him with money at a less rate than the natives will do; and as all Governments at times require money, the greater the number of lenders, the more readily will the sums requisite be raised. It has been said that the claims were of a private nature, and so it must be confessed they originally were, and in their original state the Government might interest itself in the recovery of them or not, as might have

have been judged proper; but the late change altered the case, by the manner in which the President delivered the Country to the Rajah, without informing him of the claims upon it, which he, the President, had been made acquainted with, as set forth by Mr. Benfield, and they therefore become matter of a public nature.

It is now resolved, That the Nabob had a right to the crop; and that the claimant shall be recommended for the recovery of his property; we will add, we always considered that the matter was not, whether Mr. Benfield had broken the Company's orders, but whether Mr. Benfield, having been dispossessed of his property by the late change, his claims should be recommended to the Rajah? it appeared to us that he had a right to dispose of it; that he had disposed of part to Mr. Benfield; and that the Rajah on the late change got possession of it; which were our reasons for giving this opinion.

As alarms and apprehensions have been thrown out, *that dangerous consequences may ensue from this step*; we say, we mean not to do more than recommend to the Rajah to see that justice be done, leaving the manner and time to himself, and we have not an idea, that this Government ought to go further without orders from our superiors. K.

It has been said, that charging the Tanjore Country with a sum, no less than 30 Lacks of Pagodas, will greatly impoverish it. We never meant that the Rajah or country should be accountable for more than the government share of the crop, whatever that might be; and from the President's report of the Dobbeer's information it was only about 3 Lacks of Pagodas. We believe that the Dobbeer can furnish this Board with every account that respects the Tanjore Country, for he was the principal manager when it was in the Nabob's possession, and he is continued as such by the Rajah since the country has been given up to him; and though the Nabob's people may have taken away the Persian accounts, yet there are Gentoo's Cadjans constantly M.
kept

kept in the feveral villages, which we underftand are not removed, and may be referred to by the Amuldars, moft of whom are continued in the feveral Soubahs or diftricts.

M. We are confident that the evils which would have fallen on the Company would have been very great, had the Nabob's right been denied, and his affignments deemed inadmiffible; it was by the Company's pofitive commands that the change of government took place, and by the manner in which thofe orders have been executed, an individual has been difpoffeffed of his property. Suits at law for very confiderable fums might have enfued; where they would have fallen, we are not competent in the law to determine; whether on the Company, this Board, or individual members; but of this we are clear, that a Britifh fubject ought not to be difpoffeffed of his property but by a due courfe of law. The Company have declared they will not fupport their fervants in acts that are illegal; and we believe they would be difpleafed by being embarraffed with fuits at law in the courts of England, efpecially when the matter in difpute may be fettled here agreeably to the rules of juftice, and the eftablifhed cuftom of the country. If the Nabob's right to the revenues had been denied, thofe revenues muft have fallen to the fhare of the Rajah; who, by the fame rule of reafoning, would have been authorifed to call upon the Nabob to refund all that he had received, which would have entailed on the Company inextricable difficulties, and created difcord between the Nabob and the Rajah.

Mr. Jourdan's minute and fketch of the revenues, and comparative contribution of the different powers towards the defence of the Carnatic.

In order to explain on what grounds I judged it confiftent and proper that the Rajah fhould not only pay the garrifon of Tanjore, but contribute alfo to the general defence of the Carnatic, I take leave to lay before the Board the fubftance of a fketch I gave to Lord Pigot foon after his arrival, of what I hoped might be effected for the fecurity and advantage of the Company, the Nabob, and the Rajah.

Extract of the Sketch, omitting sundry statements of Revenues and Expenses.

As the interest of the Company on this coast is materially connected with that of the Nabob; as every event which concerns him must be relatively felt by the Company; as their welfare, will, in all probability, keep pace with that of the Nabob; and as a loss of influence on this Coast might have a bad effect on their affairs in general; it may be proper, on the present * occasion, to take a view of the state of their military expenses and revenues, that the inconveniences we have laboured under may be removed, and a more solid and permanent system be established.

* N. B. The restoration of the Rajah of Tanjore.

To effect this, an increase of troops is not only necessary, but also effectual and secure means of providing for their maintenance, which can only be by assignment of the produce of countries.

———An alteration appears necessary, and the present conjuncture seems favourable for establishing a system which may give security to the Company and the Nabob, as well as to the Rajah of Tanjore; and yet place the Rajah in an easy and happy situation.

The outlines of such a plan, would be for the Nabob to discharge his troops, except a small body of cavalry and infantry for guards for himself and family. The Company to raise out of the disbanded troops such additional force as may be judged necessary; and the Nabob, in consideration of the Tanjore Peishcash and an assignment of revenues, to the amount of ——— to be eased of all military expenses in time of peace. The Company to bear such part of the expenses of the general establishment, as their revenues in the Carnatic bear to those of the Carnatic; the remainder to be paid by the Rajah of Tanjore.

The reduction of the Nabob's expenses would soon extricate him from his present difficulties, and render him one of the most opulent Princes in the empire.

The Company would be eased of part of the present heavy expenses of the Europeans; and by having a respectable force, and means of supporting it, really be the guardians and protectors of the Carnatic.

The Rajah of Tanjore would be happy in having the Government restored to him, in being freed from the apprehensions of the Nabob, Hyder, &c. and as he would have no military expenses himself, he might with ease be prevailed upon to assign countries for the support of his quota.

This plan does not accord with the strict letter of the Company's orders; yet it differs but little even from that, and seems to correspond with the spirit of them; for the protection of the Carnatic is the first consideration, or the same spirit that dictated the restoration of the country, would have ordered it unconditionally. The Rajah has long been dependent upon the Mogul's Phousdar, and contributed in time of war a quota of troops. In 1769, the Company expressed their dissatisfaction of the Rajah's conduct in delaying so long to send his cavalry, and at their inactivity when they had joined the army, and empowered the select committee to call him to account. If then the Rajah, like every other feudal Prince, is to furnish troops in time of war, it is more consistent with the security of the whole, that he assign countries for payment of regular troops, than to depend upon his irregulars; especially as in time of war no dependence can be placed on receiving the pay, even of these irregulars.

It was on these considerations that I was induced to think the sum of four Lacks, offered by the Rajah, acceptable, as a proportion equal to his

revenue; and that such a deviation from the Company's orders was consistent and proper, as the payment of troops for garrisoning of Tanjore was far less than he ought to contribute to the defence of the Carnatic. I must add, that after defraying all the Tanjore expenses, the overplus ought, in my opinion, to remain in deposit.

Thus much I have written to shew that the Rajah ought to have been required to contribute four Lacks of Pagodas, or more, had he not offered it himself; and this will, I hope, ensure the approbation of my superiors to my acquiescence to this measure.

The President acquaints the Board, that on Friday night he ordered a Council to be summoned for the next morning; but on hearing that Mr. Jourdan was gone into the country, he had thought proper to direct the Secretary to send round notice, that their meeting was postponed till this day; when at a full Board, he might move the following question:

The President's question respecting the intention of the Nabob's letter to Sir Edward Hughes.

It is the opinion of this Board, that the letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, was written purposely to create animosity between the members of this government.

Mr. Mackay puts his negative on the question, and will send in his reasons to the Secretary.

Debate thereon.

Mr. Jourdan cannot take upon himself to say that the letter was written with an intention to create animosity, he therefore puts his negative on the question, and will send in his reasons to the Secretary.

Mr. Palmer puts his negative on the question, and will give in his reasons.

Mr. Stone for the question; as he cannot otherwise conceive why the Nabob should have introduced a matter which could no ways concern himself, and which he must be sensible could not fail to create animosities between the President and the members of the Board.

The

Mr. Floyer's minute.

The nature of the Nabob's complaint against the Right Honourable President not being now under consideration of the Board, I can only observe upon the motion before us, that the Nabob, in my opinion, having an undoubted right to lay any public matter, which his Highness may deem an injury to himself, before any servant of the Crown, who appears, by Sir Edward Hughes's letter to the Board, properly authorized from the King of Great Britain to grant assistance or advice to the Nabob, or any other Indian Prince in alliance or engagement with the British Crown, or with the Company. And the Nabob being so far master of his own conduct, I cannot assent to the motion, by hazarding my conjecture upon a point, which, until this instant, I have never heard that it proceeded from any desire of the Nabob to sow discord among the members of this Board.

Mr. Dalrymple for the question.

Mr. Russell for the question.

Mr. Brooke is of opinion that it is impossible to give a positive judgement on the Nabob's intention, but he thinks the letter has some appearance of meaning to create animosity.

Mr. Dawson. From the particular circumstance of the abuse which his Lordship is said to have made use of against certain members of the Board, it does not appear so intended, and Mr. Dawson must confess he was much hurt; but upon reflection he determined within himself that no private resentment should provoke him to deviate from his duty at this Board; he is therefore for the question.

Sir Robert Fletcher. It is impossible for me to to say that I think the letter was written purposely to create animosity amongst the members of this government, I am therefore against the question.

Mr. Stratton. I really do not believe that the letter was wrote purposely to create animosity amongst the members of this government.

The

The President is of opinion that the letter *was wrote purposely* to create animosity amongst the members of this government. He would not willingly think so unfavourably of his friend the Nabob, for he will yet call him so, as to believe him capable of representing fears when he had none; but when the President sees the Nabob's name signed to an English letter which he understands not a word of, when he knows the miscreants he has in his Councils, he should not have been surprized to have found that letter accuse him of any faults.

The President's minute, explaining the reasons on which his motion is founded.

The President cannot help observing also, that the Nabob's letter to Sir Edward Hughes was not sent until a week after the visit he had the honour to make his Highness, and in the intervening time that he had received a visit from the two eldest sons, with a message of compliment from their father.

Carried for the question by the President's casting vote.

Carried for the question.

After such a letter as that written by the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, and after the sentiments of the President expressed in reply to Sir Edward Hughes, as well as what passed in debate upon the subject, the President does hope the impropriety, nay indecency of visiting the Nabob under such circumstances, must strike every member of the Council.

The President's motion against members of Council visiting the Nabob.

The President recommends, that agreeable to the Company's standing orders, no member of the Council do henceforth visit or correspond by writing or by message with the Nabob or either of his sons.

The President is more particularly induced to recommend this, as he is informed that the Nabob has been made acquainted with the late proceedings of this Board, and he thinks it very improper any member of the

the Council ſhould be liable to the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion of divulging to the Nabob the proceedings of this government.

Mr. Mackay's minute againſt the motion.

I put my negative on the Preſident's queſtion, becauſe I think the Court of Directors do not mean that the Nabob ſhould be prevented from ſeeing any perſon whatever, much leſs members of this government. I conceive thoſe orders muſt only mean, that all correſpondence with the Nabob and other Country Powers on their affairs ſhould be carried on by the Preſident, and nothing more. I apprehend that making an order now, that members of the Council ſhould not viſit the Nabob, would be extremely improper, and more eſpecially as accuſations from the Nabob againſt the Preſident are now before the Board.

Mr. Jourdan's opinion.

As I have not viſited the Nabob but once ſince my return to Madras, and I have no intentions of viſiting him; but as the motion implies a ſuſpicion of members of this Government, I object to it. I have alſo objection to it becauſe the Nabob has expreſſed alarms, and theſe will naturally be increaſed by ſuch an order.

Mr. Palmer's opinion.

I am againſt the motion, as I look upon ſuch reſolution as in the higheſt degree reflecting upon the members of the Board; who if they cannot be truſted in viſiting the Nabob, are not worthy of a ſeat at it. I do aſſure the Board, notwithſtanding, that I will be the firſt to vote for puniſhing any member of the Board who ſhall hold any illicit correſpondence with the Nabob.

Mr. Stone's opinion.

I do not look upon the Preſident's motion as intended to convey any imputation on the members of the Board, but merely to ſhew the impropriety of viſiting the Nabob during the unhappy differences ſubſiſting between the Preſident and the Nabob; I am therefore for the motion.

I think

Mr. Floyer's opinion.

I think the motion made by the President is a strong implication of his suspicion of the members of this Board, particularly as it is so soon made after the personal misunderstanding which appears to have arisen between the Nabob and the President, and therefore am of opinion, that this is a very improper time for the Board to shut up the late access to the Nabob, and am therefore against the motion. But to convince the President that I am on this, as well as on all other occasions, willing to prevent, as far as may lay in my power, our giving him any cause of suspicion and uneasiness on the present occasion, viz. the late difference between the Nabob and him, I assure his Lordship, that under this predicament I will not visit the Nabob, nor do I mean on any future occasion to visit him without the President's permission. That this was my rule of conduct concerning the Nabob, I appeal to the President whether I did not, on my arrival from England, inform his Lordship that I had received a message from his Highness requesting to see me; but hearing that there were different opinions between the Nabob and the Council, I did not think it proper to send an answer to the message until I had mentioned it to his Lordship, who thereupon assured me he wished I should go to him, and desired I would return an answer accordingly. I did so, and went; and it is the only time I have visited him, or have had correspondence with his Highness since my arrival from England, except the Nabob's having returned my visit a few days afterwards, when I lived with Mr. Carvalhs at St. Thomé.

Mr. Dalrymple's opinion.

I give my vote for the question, because I think the Company's orders require that no person, the President excepted, be permitted to have any intercourse with the Country Powers; and this seems to be not only the general sentiments of this Presidency, as appears in various parts of Fort St. George Consultations (vide 6th November 1769, and 3d April, 1775), but also of the service in general, (vide General Letter from Bengal of 7th December, 1775.)

I think

I think it incumbent on me to declare, that I have had no intercourse of business with the Nabob or his sons.

Mr. Russell is for the question, for the reasons assigned by Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Brooke is for the question,

Mr. Dawson is for the question.

Sir Robert Fletcher is against the question, for the reasons assigned by Mr. Floyer.

Mr. Stratton is against the question, for the reasons assigned by Mr. Floyer.

The President is for the question.

Carried for the question.

Carried for the question by the President's casting vote.

The President's minute of the causes of the misunderstandings with the Nabob, and his motion that he be advised to remove to Arcot.

The President represents to the Board the many difficulties that attend the constant residence of the Nabob within the Company's bounds, from the frequent acts committed, which are incompatible with our laws.

Instances of murder, imprisonments, thefts, tortures, and such like offences, committed by the Nabob's people, wherein the interference of this Government is indispensably necessary, have already happened in the short time the President has been here: he should ill deserve the trust reposed in him if he let informations of such a nature pass unnoticed, and if he is not passive the Nabob will ever think his dignity hurt.

Another

Another inconvenience arifes from the fuits in the Mayor's Court againft the Nabob's family and attendants, which occafion applications that muft lay the Prefident under the greateft embarraffment.

The Nabob has not mentioned it in his letter to Sir Edward Hughes, but the Prefident knows well, he was moft chagrined at the Prefident's having releafed fome children ftolen by a Moorman, formerly, if not at prefent in the Nabob's fervice, and who was ftopt in the Company's bounds, but conveyed away by the Nabob's officers into his Highnefs's country, and thereby has eluded the juftice of the Englifh laws: of thefe children nineteen were taken from the Tanjore country, one from St. Thomé, and two from Cuddalore.

The Prefident being defirous to to avoid every occafion of giving difguft to the Nabob, and as circumftances muft occur daily to increafe his difcontent whilft he remains here, the Prefident propofes, as the moft effectual method to prevent thefe mifunderftandings, that it be recommended to the Nabob to refide at Arcot.

Mr. Mackay againft the queftion. Debate.

Mr. Jourdan againft the queftion.

Mr. Palmer is againft the queftion, as the Nabob's refidence here is attended with great advantages to the Company; and that fuch a ftep would greatly tend to increafe and heighten the jealoufies that already fubfift between the Nabob and this Government.

Mr. Stone for the queftion.

Mr. Floyer againft the queftion, for the reafons now affigned.

Mr. Floyer's minute.

I am of opinion, that many inconveniences might arife to the Company's affairs if this third motion of the Prefident, re-

 fpecting

ſpecting the Nabob's removal, takes place, and cannot perceive one good end it can poſſibly anſwer. I will ſuppoſe, for a moment, that the Board does recommend to the Nabob to remove himſelf and family to Arcot, and that the Nabob ſhould not acquieſce therein: Can it be the intention of this Board to force him to a compliance? Or will the Board be ſatisfied with his refuſal? I will venture to offer it as my opinion, that the Board cannot in this inſtance be juſtified in uſing compulſatory meaſures; and that it is not his deſire to remove from his preſent place of reſidence, where he has been for many years, I think is evident from his making no preparations, that I can hear of, for the removal of himſelf or any part of his family.

Muſt it not appear, not only to the Nabob but to the whole world, that in conſequence of the late unhappy miſunderſtandings between him and our Right Honourable Preſident, we are become diſtruſtful even of one another; and that we are inclined to offer indignity to his perſon, whenever he may think proper to differ from the Board in opinion upon any matter which may concern himſelf or his Government? Will it not tend to diſguſt him againſt the Company's Government, and help to alienate that ſtrong friendſhip and alliance which has ſo long happily ſubſiſted between the Company and his Highneſs? And here my attention is more particularly called, by adverting to the two motions which have this day been carried by a majority of the Board, viz. That his letter to Sir Edward Hughes was purpoſely written to create animoſities among the members of the Board, and the prohibition laid upon its members from viſiting or holding any intercourſe with the Nabob. For theſe, and many other reaſons, with which I will not take up the Board's time at preſent, I am againſt the motion.

Mr. Dalrymple's minute.

I am for the queſtion, becauſe I think it will tend to put an end to all animoſities between the Company's Government and the Nabob; will not only obviate all the difficulties complained of, but be

extremely beneficial to his country; which, from what I have feen of it, is in a very miferable ftate. At the fame time, I can by no means confider this recommendation as compulfatory on the Nabob; but only, that if he does think proper to remain, he muft not complain of the regular courfe of juftice taking effect: nor do I think this by any means can be underftood to refufe the Company's protection to the Nabob in cafe of war or danger.

Mr. Ruffell is for the queftion, becaufe he thinks Durbar politics to have been almoft the only fource of the diffentions that of late years have prevailed at this Board, and will ever be fo while the Nabob refides among us.

Mr. Brooke againft the queftion.

Mr. Dawfon for the queftion.

Sir Robert Fletcher's minute.

Sir Robert Fletcher. When I confider the friendfhip fubfifting between our Sovereign Lord the King and the Nabob, and his Highnefs's clofe connection with the Company and the Englifh Nation in general, I fhould think myfelf extremely criminal if I were to give my affent to the motion: I am therefore entirely againft it, and if it fhall be carried in the affirmative, I will deliver in further reafons in a written diffent.

Mr. Stratton againft the queftion.

The Prefident for the queftion.

Carried againft the queftion.

Carried againft the queftion, feven to five.

ue.

AT A CONSULTATION, 21 June, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Prefident.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher,
——— ———	Henry Brooke,
Claud Ruffell	Alexander Dalrymple
Charles Floyer	John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

Mr. Dawfon, abfent.

Minutes of laft Confultation read and approved.

THE Right Honourable the Prefident lays before the Board a draft of a general letter, which he has prepared to go to the Court of Directors by a French fhip, which will fail in a few days from Pondicherry.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaft-Indies.

Honourable,

Draft of a general letter propofed by the Prefident to be fent to the Court of Directors.

1. WE have received your commands of the 25th November, and 13th and 22d of December laft. The Royal Henry, Captain Rous, arrived the 1ft of May, and failed the 13th of June for China. The Greenwich arrived the 2d of June, and failed the 15th of June for Bengal. The Fox, Granby, and Camden, arrived the 11th of June, and the Sandwich the 19th, the four laft mentioned are now in our road delivering their Cargoes.

2. By

2. By private advices from Bombay, we learn that the Grenville may be expected here in the beginning of July, to deliver some pepper (which we shall send to China) and to take in some bales for England, having now two cargoes remaining in our warehouses.

3. Should your Honours have received a short letter we wrote you the 14th May, you will be surprized to find, that the whole of your President's conduct during the time he was at Tanjore, has been since disapproved of by a majority of Council. By the Grenville we shall transmit to your Honours our proceedings compleat, in the mean while, we think it necessary to say something on the subject of our divisions.

4. We enclose a letter from Mr. Paul Benfield, dated 29th May, upon which it was that day resolved, That the Rajah of Tanjore being put in full possession of his country by the Company's express orders; it is the opinion of this Board, that it is not in their power to comply with Mr. Benfield's request in any respect; those claims on individuals which bear the appearance of having no connection with Government, not being sufficiently explained to enable the Board to form an opinion thereon, and the assignments of the Nabob not being admissible.

5. A Member of Council, then in the majority, desired this matter might be reconsidered at the succeeding Council, and when it was reconsidered a majority voted that the resolution of the 29th May should *not be confirmed*;

Which was followed by Mr. Mackay's introducing on the 14th June, these motions: 1st "That it is the opinion of the Board, that the "Nabob had a right to the government share of the crop in the "Tanjore country, the produce of grain sown during the time it was "in his possession, and that any mortgages he may have given on the "same are good."

2d. "That

2d. " That a letter be written to the Rajah of Tanjore, to inform " him of the above resolution of the Board, and to recommend to him " to give to Mr. Benfield all reasonable assistance, in recovering such " debts as appear to be justly due to him from the inhabitants, as well " as to restore to him the grain of last year, which was in possession of " his people and said to be forcibly taken from them."

3d. " That it be farther recommended to the Rajah, to account " with Mr. Benfield for the government share of the grain, in the " districts assigned to him by the Nabob, and said to be forcibly taken " from his people."

These Motions being severally put to the vote, passed in the affirmative, viz.

For the Question.	*Against.*
Mr. Mackay	Mr. Stone
Mr. Jourdan	Mr. Dalrymple
Mr. Palmer	Mr. Russell
Mr. Floyer	Mr. Dawson
Mr. Brooke	The President
Sir Robert Fletcher	
Mr. Stratton	

6. We enclose your Honours a paper delivered into consultation the 10th June by Mr. Dalrymple, containing a summary account of what had passed upon the subject, together with another paper delivered in the 17th by Messieurs Statton, Sir Rober Fletcher, Messrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay.

7. We also transmit to your Honours a letter we have received from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal with our reply thereto.

8. The Nabob, on the 3d June, addressed a letter to Sir Edward Hughes, copy whereof, together with Sir Edward Hughes's letter to

us,

us, and our anſwer, comes encloſed. The Nabob's letter, which is written in Engliſh, and to which he has put his ſignature, was voted in conſultation the 17th inſtant, to have been written purpoſely to create animoſity between the Members of this Government. The Preſident then gave in the following minute.

" After ſuch a letter as that written by the Nabob to Sir Edward " Hughes, and after the ſentiments of the Preſident, expreſſed in the " reply to Sir Edward Hughes, as well as what paſſed in debate on " the ſubject, the Preſident does hope, the impropriety, nay the inde- " cency of viſiting the Nabob under ſuch circumſtances, muſt ſtrike " every Member of the Council."

" The Preſident recommends, that agreeable to the Company's " ſtanding orders, no Member of the Council do henceforth viſit, or " correſpond by writing, or by meſſage, with the Nabob, or either of " his Sons."

" The Preſident is more particularly induced to recommend this, as " he is informed, that the Nabob has been made acquainted with the " late proceedings of this Board ; and he thinks it very improper, any Member of the Council ſhould be liable to the ſlighteſt ſuſpicions, of " divulging to the Nabob the proceedings of Government."

9. Your Preſident is of opinion, that unleſs means are taken to prevent Europeans from having connection and correſpondence with the country government, in money matters as well as others, your affairs will ever be ſubject to embarraſſment.

10. Your ſtanding orders poſitively prohibit all money tranſactions with the country governments; but ſome Members of the Council think theſe orders no longer in force, being ſuperſeded by the Act of Parliament, which your Preſident cannot admit.

11. The conftant ufage of the fervice was, that all intercourfe, and correfpondence with the country powers, was carried on by the Prefident alone; this feems to be confirmed particularly, by your commands of the 22d March, 1771, paragraph 2, and of 25th March, 1772, paragraph 64; but at prefent, almoft every man claims a right of fuch intercourfe with the country powers as he thinks proper.

Remarks of Sir Robert Fletcher thereon.

Sir Robert Fletcher remarks, that the proceedings of the laft Council are mentioned in the above letter, but as thofe proceedings have not yet been approved at the Board, and as he has fomething further to offer on the fubject of them, he is of opinion they cannot with propriety be introduced in the prefent letter, and that no part of them fhould go, unlefs the whole could be fent compleat.

The Prefident moves that it fhall be fent.

The Right Honourable the Prefident then moves, that the letter which he has prepared, be fent to the Court of Directors.

Mr. Mackay's opinion.

Mr. Mackay thinks the letter ought not to go to the Court of Directors, without the proceedings go with it, as otherwife it will be a partial reprefentation. It will, in his opinion, be fully fufficient and more candid, if the Board only tell the Honourable Court by this conveyance, that as they have reafon to believe reprefentations will go from the Nabob, and from others, of the prefent difputes, they hope the Court of Directors will fufpend their judgment till they fee the whole proceedings, which will be fent them by the Grenville. He can have no objection to the firft part of the letter being fent, viz. as far as the words, "remaining in our warehoufes."

Mr. Jourdan's opinion.

Mr. Jourdan of the fame opinion with Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Palmer's opinion.

Mr. Palmer of the fame opinion with Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stone's opinion.

Mr. Stone thinks the letter fhould go.

Mr.

Mr. Floyer thinks the letter ſhould not go, and will deliver a minute on the ſubject. Mr. Floyer's opinion.

Mr. Dalrymple is of opinion the letter ſhould go; at the ſame time if there are any other papers, which may be thought neceſſary by any Member of the Board to give a fair ſtate, he ſhould be for thoſe papers being alſo ſent. Mr. Dalrymple's opinion.

Mr. Ruſſell is of opinion the letter ſhould go, though he ſhould be glad if the whole proceedings could be prepared in time to accompany it. Mr. Ruſſell's opinion.

Mr. Brooke thinks, that if it is neceſſary to touch upon thoſe ſubjects which have produced the unhappy differences at the Board, the whole of the proceedings ſhould go. Mr. Brooke's opinion.

Sir Robert Fletcher has no objection to the letter as far as the word *complete*, in the 3d paragraph, but he objects to the reſt going at this time, becauſe he thinks it only a part of a great deal of matter, by which it is impoſſible for the Company to form an impartial judgment. Sir Robert Fletcher's opinion.

Mr. Stratton of the ſame opinion. Mr. Stratton's opinion.

The Preſident is of opinion that the letters ſhould go, and as he cannot have the concurrence of the majority of the Council, he propoſes to ſend it from himſelf. The Preſident's opinion. He propoſes to ſend it from himſelf.

Resolved, by a majority of ſeven to four, that the letter prepared by the Preſident be not ſent from the Board. Carried againſt the motion.

At

Monday, 24th June.

AT A CONSULTATION, 24 June, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Prefident.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
————————	Henry Brooke
Claud Ruffell	Alexander Dalrymple
Charles Floyer	John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

Mr. Dawfon indifpofed.

The minutes of laft confultation read and approved.

The Prefident acquaints the Board, that on the 22d inftant, the draught of the letter which he had laid before the Board at the laft confultation was difpatched to the Court of Directors, together with the following addition in his own name, as per following lift.

The Prefident's addition to the draft of the general letter.

12. The foregoing is the draft of a letter which I propofed to be written to your Honours from your adminiftration here, but the majority of the Council not confenting thereto, I think it incumbent on me to tranfmit it to you, and fhall add, that was I fenfible any part of my conduct fince my arrival here had been improper, I would acknowledge, and endeavour to rectify it. But I am perfuaded I have done my duty, and my duty only.

13. The execution of your orders concerning Tanjore has given infinite fatisfaction to the natives in general: the Nabob was certainly not pleafed, but I am convinced he would have acquiefced, had he not been miflead by evil counfellors.

2 14th.

14. The letter to Sir Edward Hughes, in which ſuch apprehenſions are expreſſed of danger to the Nabob's perſon, was not ſent till a week after the viſit, which it is pretended gave riſe to thoſe apprehenſions, and in the interval I received a viſit from the Nabob's ſons, with a meſſage of compliment from their father. The Nabob is perfectly ſenſible that his whole dependence is on your protection; and I am under no doubt that I can be on good terms with him whenever I pleaſe: but I think it more for your dignity and intereſt, that the Nabob ſhould firſt become ſenſible of the impropriety of his conduct, in placing his truſt in men who have as little regard for his intereſt as they have for yours.

15. I will go on as I have begun, ſtrongly recommending every meaſure that appears to me proper, and reſolutely maintaining that nothing ſhall be done, which in my opinion may involve your affairs in difficulty.

I have the honour to be, with the greateſt reſpect,

Honourable,

Your moſt faithful,

Fort St. George, and obedient, humble ſervant,

22d June, 1776. PIGOT.

LIST of the PACKET.

No. 1. Draught of a letter propoſed by the Preſident to be written by the adminiſtration here, followed by a letter from the Preſident to the Honourable the Court of Directors. Liſt of papers tranſmitted therewith.

2. Copy of a letter from Mr. Paul Benfield, dated 29th May, 1776.

3. Copy of a memorandum delivered by the Dobbeer to Lord Pigot at Tanjore.

4. Copy of Mr. Dalrymple's minute given in the 10th June.

5. Copy of a minute by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, delivered in 17th June.

6. Copy of a letter from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, dated 15th May, 1776.

7. Copy of a letter to Bengal, in reply to the foregoing, dated 13th June.

8. Copy of a letter from Sir Edward Hughes, dated 3d June, 1776.

9. Copy of a letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 3d June.

10. Copy of a tranſlation of a letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 26th May, 1776.

11. Copy of a letter from the Preſident and Council to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 3d June, 1776.

12. Copy of Sir Edward Hughes's reply, dated 3d June.

13. The Preſident's explanation, in conſultation 6th June, of a complaint made in the Nabob's letter to Sir Edward Hughes.

14. Opinion of Mr. Mackay in conſultation, 17th June, 1776, concerning the meaning of the Company's orders prohibiting correſpondence with the Country Government, and of Mr. Dalrymple in reply thereto.

Mr. Brooke's additions to his opinion delivered reſpecting the Nabob's letter to Sir Edward Hughes.

Mr. Brooke deſires that the following may be inſerted in this day's proceedings, as an addition to his opinion on the Preſident's firſt queſtion the 17th inſtant, beginning from " To create animoſity," in that part wherein it is ſaid our Preſident " Has thrown out reflections on ſome of the members of this Council."

Sir

Sir Robert Fletcher delivers in the following remarks on Mr. Dalrymple's minute, entered the 10th inftant.

Remarks of Sir Robert Fletcher on Mr. Dalrymple's minute of the 10th.

In the third paragraph of Mr. Dalrymple's minute of the 10th inftant, he mentions the "*delufive promifes* and *profeffions* from *Chepauk*;" and fays, "he is convinced the view (at the Durbar) was to protract, &c." And in the fourth paragraph, he fays, "Another member of "the Board, who now expreffes his *aftonifhment* that any man in his "fenfes could ever have expected the Nabob's confent, at that time ob-"jected to precipitancy, obferving that a month more would be well "beftowed, if by *that delay* the Nabob's confent could have been ob-"tained." Mr. Dalrymple fhould have explained the *delufive promifes* to which he would feem to allude, and if he means to be underftood, he fhonld explain to the reader whether the delay to *obtain* the *Nabob's confent* goes to the delivery of the fort or of the country of Tanjore; for as nothing of this kind appears on our records, it is impoffible for Mr. Dalrymple to be underftood by any man who fhall read his minute. The only guide for the reader's judgment is the records. There, I believe, it will be found, that the Nabob did very early, in a public letter to the Board, fhew his inclination to admit a Company's garrifon into the fort of Tanjore; but faid he never could confent to deliver up the country to the Tanjore Rajah. A.

It has been faid the Nabob made the fame declarations at that time in his letter to the King's Minifter and Chairman of the India Company; I am fure thofe declarations correfpond entirely with what the Nabob faid to me when I advifed him to follow the line of the Company's orders. I am ready to bring evidence to the Board, that he invariably held the fame language with others; and fince his conduct ultimately appears to me to be confiftent with thofe affertions, I do not know what Mr. Dalrymple means by *delufive promifes*. B.

I believe

I believe *I am the member of the Board* alluded to in the fourth pa-
C. ragraph ; for I remember having lately expreffed the *aftonifhment* Mr. Dalrymple therein fets forth ; and I did fo for the above reafons. It is not candid to fay that I *objected* to *precipitancy*; for I could not *object* to that which I imagined could not exift. I had no hopes of the Nabob's ever confenting to give up the country to the Rajah, and therefore *precipitancy* could never enter into my mind. But when the Prefi-
C. dent, who was empowered by the Board to carry on the bufinefs with the Nabob, told us that he ftill had hopes of *obtaining the Nabob's confent*, I did for that reafon fay, that a *month more would be well beftowed*, if *by that delay* the *Nabob's confent could be obtained*.

C. Delays, refpecting the admiffion of the troops to garrifon Tanjore, I ever declared myfelf againft; but that difficulty once removed, it was of no confequence, in my opinion, whether the country was delivered over to the Rajah a month fooner or a month later, further than related to the fituation of the Rajah himfelf, and to the *execution* of the Company's orders by the Gentlemen appointed a Committee of Circuit, fince they were not to leave the Prefidency until the execution of the orders refpecting Tanjore.

D. In the 13th paragraph of Mr. Dalrymple's minute, he feems to lay great ftrefs on the *unanimous* confent of the Board, " that it was proper " and *neceffary* for the *Prefident* to go to *Tanjore*."

E. With refpect to myfelf, I thought that meafure neither *proper* or *neceffary*, as will appear from the following minute which I had prepared in the beginning of March, and fhewn to the Prefident and other members long before the 25th, the day on which the refolution was taken, viz.

Since the Nabob does not chufe to put his troops under our manage-
F. ment in the manner, and upon the terms we have given the Company reafon to hope he would do, and as the prefent fituation of the Rajah

of Tanjore appears to be inconsistent with our orders from England by the Grenville, I am of opinion, that the officer commanding in Tanjore should be immediately *directed* † to make the Rajah acquainted with the Company's orders; and to explain to the Rajah, that the force we require him to assign a part of the Tanjore revenues to pay, is twenty squadrons of cavalry, consisting of 200 native troops each; three battalions of native infantry, of 700 each; and three Companies of European artillery, of 100 each. This is the force I would prescribe to the Rajah. I think it is a force not inconsistent with the orders of the Company, and I think we cannot with less undertake the defence of the Rajah, his family, and his country. G.

When the Rajah shall have agreed to the conditions of his restoration, and settled the necessary assignments for the maintenance of the troops conformably to such instructions as the Board may send, I think Lieutenant-Colonel Harper should then have orders, at the head of the English troops, to declare the Rajah to be restored to his country, observing every ceremony suitable to the occasion, and paying him every military honour, except such as we observe to our Royal Master and the Princes of the blood. H. I.

Had the Nabob complied with our desire of putting his troops under our management in the manner set forth in our general letter by the Ankerwyke, a deputation from the Board might have been necessary; but since the Nabob declines to follow the advice given him, and since the time presses for the execution of the Company's orders in the northern Circars, by which we shall lose four of our present members, I think it altogether unnecessary to send any deputation to Tanjore. K.

My opinion is clearly shewn in the above minute; but when the report had spread all over the country that the President would certainly go to Tanjore, that he had actually posted Palankeen Boys on the road,

† The word *directed* is not in the original.

 and

and made the neceffary preparations for his journey, I did not chufe to thwart his Lordfhip in a meafure which he feemed refolved upon; and for this reafon only, I confefs, I agreed to *his motion* for his going; but if his Lordfhip had thought proper to make the Board acquainted with the ftring of motions he had in his hand, inftead of collecting the votes upon the firft before we were informed of the fecond, and upon the fecond before we knew of the third, and fo on; I fay, if his Lordfhip had been obliging enough to lay the whole before us at once, my vote upon his firft *queftion* (and I believe others as well as mine) would have been a direct negative; and this I think is evident from the diffents entered againft the proceedings of that day.

M. In the 15th and 17th paragraphs Mr. Dalrymple fays, The refolution of the Board the 29th May *unanimoufly* confirms the propriety of the order given to Captain Mackenzie, under which it is afferted by Mr. Benfield that his property was feized. I declare now, as I did in the debate on the 29th May, that I imagined Captain Mackenzie's battalion marched to the fouthward merely as an efcort to Lord Pigot, and it was not until late in May that I obferved the refolution as it ftands refpecting that battalion on the proceedings of the 25th March; but taking the refolution as it ftands, and the vote upon it on the 29th May, as it is faid to relate to the order given by Lord Pigot at Tanjore to the officers of that battalion, furely no inference can follow that it was the idea of any member of the Board, on the 25th of March, that that battalion fhould *enable* the Rajah to *collect* any *revenues* which were the private
N. property of another, and which ought not, I think, to have been transferred with the dominion of the country; and if there really was no grain to feize, under the authority of this military order, which could legally be faid to belong to the Rajah, to what purpofe could the military order tend, or how was the officer to act under it?

I do not recollect any thing elfe in Mr. Dalrymple's minute (for I write from memorandums) which requires a ferious anfwer from me.

I remember

I remember indeed his *argument* and his *inference* refpecting the information which I gave the Board upon the fubject of Governor Verelft and the Armenians; but here I fhall only fay, that the *argument*, the *inference*, and the principle from which they flow appear to me to be equally deferving of notice.

As this minute is to go to Bengal, and as I have mentioned in it the defign of the Board to prevail upon the Nabob to give up his army to be paid and commanded by us, and to affign a part of his revenues for that purpofe, as is particularly fet forth in the paragraph which the Prefident laid before us, by the general letter by the *Ankerwyke*; I think it a duty incumbent on me now to declare, that if any part of the influence or authority of this government has been ufed to induce the Nabob to yield to that plan, contrary to his own *free confent*, I think altogether unjuftifiable, and contrary to the Company's pofitive commands; and that I may be clearly underftood upon this fubject, I fhall beg leave to quote the following extracts from the records which appear to me to be directly in point.

Extract of a feparate General Letter from this Prefidency to the Court of Directors, dated 8th March, 1769.

1. "IT cannot be neceffary to ufe many arguments to prove, that the power which is to direct the meafures fhould know the means; but whilft thofe means lie fo much in the Nabob as they muft, we are in a thoufand inftances liable to difappointments and impediments. 'Tis with reluctance we fay even thus much, becaufe we cannot propofe a remedy, for there is no medium. The Nabob muft be Nabob or nothing: that is to fay, he muft have the fole management of the countries, and the revenues and refources, or they muft be wholly in the Company. In the firft cafe, we forefee dangers threatening on all fides in which the Company muft neceffarily be involved;

involved; in the latter, the Nabob would be certainly drove to the laſt deſpair: for it is not to be conceived how greatly his jealouſy and apprehenſions have increaſed ſince the Company have aſſumed the power in Bengal; and yet ſuch a ſyſtem, until the affairs of the Carnatic could be put upon a more reſpectable footing, by the reduction of the debts and incumbrances, would, we are confident, produce far greater advantage and happineſs in the end to the Nabob and his family, than the courſe he has hitherto taken and no doubt will purſue. If what we have taken the liberty to offer on this ſubject is conceived in general terms, without deſcending to particular diſtances, it is becauſe we are fearful of enforcing what would not only give us great pain to execute, but perhaps draw on us imputations we do not deſerve and wiſh to avoid. We ſhall therefore on this ſubject only add, that in our conduct towards the Nabob, we ſhall carefully avoid giving him any cauſe of diſguſt, but ſhall nevertheleſs urge him in the warmeſt manner to ſuch meaſures as ſhall appear to us neceſſary."

3. "Now that we are drove to the laſt exeremity, and that the Nabob ſees his danger, he has engaged to procure both the cavalry and the means, as has already been taken notice of in our addreſs of this date, and on his performance reſts all our hopes; but we are ſorry to ſay, that in this, as in all his undertakings, we have our doubts. Had we not received from Bengal very large ſupplies of money far beyond our expectation, we muſt long ago have ſunk under the burthen of this war, to the charges of which, the ordinary revenues are very inadequate; ſince then it is evident, that even thoſe revenues are in time of war very precarious, and by the ravage of a few horſe may in a great meaſure fail; ſince it is equally certain, at leaſt we believe ſo, that Bengal may be as liable to this misfortune as the Coaſt; we hope your Honours, will not think us too preſuming, if we humbly offer to your conſideration, the fatal conſequences that may attend your poſſeſſions in India, if a ſufficient fund be not raiſed

raised and always kept in reserve at each of your Presidencies, to answer the extraordinary charges of war, in case the ordinary revenues should fail. We foresee the great distress that must attend your affairs at home, should your investment be stopped or even curtailed in order to form such reserves; but in our humble opinion, the question is, Whether it were better to do so, or to expose the whole to the most dangerous risque? upon which subject we earnestly request your full and clear sentiments and orders."

Extract from the Company's Letter to the Commissioners in India, 23d March, 1770.

30. "It is with the utmost concern that we read the advices of our late Governor and Council at Fort St. George relative to the Nabob of Arcot. We allow their sentiments on the critical situation of his affairs with the Company to be but too just, and the conclusions they have made, to be such as present appearances warrant them to draw therefrom. Sorry are we to be obliged to add, it appears to us that the imprudent and impolitic schemes engaged in and pursued by themselves, have eventually increased the Nabob's debts and heightened his distresses to so great a degree, that it is become necessary in their opinion, by some means or other, to become possessed of such a mode or measure of power over the Nabob's revenues, which though it might perhaps operate immediately in favour of his creditors, considered simply as such, could scarce fail also of being productive of events, which might issue in the total annihilation of all our interest and influence in the Carnatic."

31. "When we reflect on the long experience we have had of Mahommed Ally's faithful attachment to the English Company, we are surprised at the idea entertained by the Governor and Council, in their letters of the 8th March, and 27th June, 1769, to reduce him to a mere nominal Nabob.

37. "The ſanction of the treaty of Paris, by which treaty public faith became the guarantee of the Nabob's title, will be of little uſe to him, if notorious infringements of the rights and powers uſually inherent in, and dependent on ſuch title, ſhould be by us countenanced and permitted to take place."

38. "The vaſt ſums which the Nabob owes the Company, and the diſtant and uncertain proſpect of payment, while the Nabob's revenues are wholly in his own hands and under his own management, are the reaſons urged for adopting a new plan, or making ſome material alterations in our preſent ſyſtem of policy with the Nabob; but as we conceive it will be extremely difficult to make an experiment of this kind, (and of the utility of the ſcheme we can only judge by experiment) without making ſuch diſcovery of our intentions, as would probably deſtroy all the Nabob's confidence in us, which ſeems but too much weakened already, and alſo naturally tend to confirm the ſuſpicions of all ſuch country powers, who may have received unfavourable impreſſions concerning us from the tranſactions at Bengal, we cannot think it prudent, or ourſelves by any means warranted again to alarm the inhabitants of India by attempts of this nature, more eſpecially, as perhaps we might thereby alſo involve ourſelves in the very diſagreeable neceſſity of anſwering, at ſome future period, for the infraction of a public treaty and the conſequences thereof."

After an attentive peruſal of the above records, I fear I went too far in giving my aſſent to the paragraph alluded to in our public letter by the Ankerwyke; but as to our rights to *force* the Nabob to compliance, in any ſenſe of the *word*, I muſt ſay, I think it would be the extreme of oppreſſion. For the Nabob is the acknowledged maſter of his country, and we have no better title to command, and to pay his forces, than we have to preſs him to give up the management of his collections for the means of paying them.

O. P.

In

In some cases, however, the nature of the Company's alliance with the Nabob affords us a just plea to interfere, even with a degree of authority. We may dispute his right to entertain British subjects without our previous consent, because it is a breach of the implied treaty subsisting between him and the Company. If he maintains a larger force, added to our's, than is necessary for the defence of the Carnatic, we may *remonstrate*. If their expense should be so great as to disable him to discharge his debts to the Company, we, I think, have a right to demand their reduction, because their continuance is incompatible with our prior rights. If he should employ his forces in any service which may endanger the Carnatic, or involve him, and of course the Company in a war, we have a right to require him to recall them, because having united his interest with our's, he ought not to expose both to danger without our concurrence. Many other causes may be supposed, which may also be resolved by the same principle. But this will never justify us in divesting him of the command of his own troops, nor will any order of the Company, that I have ever heard of, bear us harmless for such a proceeding.

P.

P.

Mr Jourdan delivers in the following minute on the President's second question, the 17th instant.

Mr. Jourdan's minute on the President's motion respecting intercourse with the Nabob.

Having, in April 1775, assented to the order for preventing Europeans from visiting the Nabob for a certain time, and having since objected to a motion of the President for preventing the Members of the Council from visiting the Nabob, &c. to preserve that consistency of conduct I wish to observe, I take leave to remark, that when Mr Wynch, in 1775, proposed the resolution referred to, there was a matter deemed of great importance before the Board, and on that account I agreed to it; but it was a general prohibition, and not confined to, or reflecting on Members of the Government. They were with the consent of the President, permitted to visit, and some did; but what good consequences resulted from the order?—The communication

was

was broken, the Nabob and his sons visited General Smith, and his sons visited others. When Sir Rober Fletcher verbally desired this order might be revoked, I readily consented; because I judged it, from what I have already mentioned, insufficient to answer the end proposed. I have in addition to say, that the present is not a general prohibition, but one evidently leveled against Members of the Government, founded upon suspicion; and that the former difference with the Nabob was on a subject, deemed by a majority of importance to the Company; but that the present case does not appear to me to be in the least similar to it. I know of no public dispute with the Nabob; I know it is an event to be wished, that all the troops in the Carnatic should be under the management of the Company: but I well know, that I never consented that the President should do more than by persuasion and reason to bring the Nabob to approve of it; for although I consider the Nabob, by his connection with the British nation, in a certain degree dependent upon them, I think he has rights independent of them.

Mr Mackay's minute on the Right Honourable the President's first motion on the 17th instant, entered in consultation 24th June.

Mr. Mackay's minute on the President's motion respecting the Nabob's letter to Sir Edward Hughes.

I put my negative on this motion, because from what the President has acknowledged, the Nabob, in my opinion, had sufficient reason to complain of him; and therefore, giving it as the opinion of the Board, " That the letter was written purposely to create animosity between " the Members of Government," is both unjust and injurious to the Nabob, because the President being accused in that letter, makes him, in my opinion, a party concerned; and therefore such a motion comes from himself with great imptopriety, nor ought he, in my opinion, to have voted on it, had it come from another. The motion is carried by the President's casting vote, though the opinion of one of the Member's for the question, I mean Mr. Brooke, appears doubtful.

Mr.

Mr. Mackay's minute on the Right Honourable the Prefident's fecond queftion on the 17th inftant entered the 24th June.

That I may not be thought inconfiftent in the opinion I gave as a Member of the Board, I beg leave to explain my motives for having voted in Confultation 3d April, 1775; "That no perfon (that is a "European) ought to be permitted to go to the Nabob while the pre- "fent bufinefs is in agitation, more particularly members of the Board;" and for having put my negative at the laft Confultation on the Prefident's fecond motion, viz. "That, agreeable to the Company's ftand- "ing orders, no Member of the Council do henceforth vifit, or cor- "refpond by writing, or by meffage, with the Nabob, or either of "his fons."

Mr. Mackay's minute in explanation of his opinion given refpecting intercoufe with the Nabob.

When the Nabob laft year wanted to give Tanjore to his fecond fon, Ameer Ul Omrah, a great majority of the Board were of opinion that fuch a meafure might, in its confequences, materially affect the intereft of the Company; and therefore, in a letter from their Prefident, reprefented their apprehenfions to the Nabob, and requefted of him not to put Tanjore in the poffeffion of his fecond fon for reafons fet forth in that letter. But the Nabob not paying any regard to the reprefentations of the Board, and the Prefident being of opinion that the Nabob was advifed to behave in that manner by fervants of the Company, and by other Europeans who had free accefs to the Durbar, the abovementioned refolution of the 3d of April was paffed by all the Board except three members: not that the majority believed it would anfwer any end or purpofe for the good of the fervice, but it ferved to exprefs their difapprobation of the conduct of any of the fervants of the Company, who fhould vifit the Nabob whilft he continued at variance with the Company's Government, on matters folely relating to the Company. The prefent difpute between the Nabob and the Prefident, on matters in which the Company's intereft does not appear to me to be any ways concerned, will, I flatter myfelf, appear fo totally

different to the Court of Directors from what passed last year, that I shall stand acquitted to them for my present opinion; I will add besides, that the President's motion is founded on a standing order of the Company, which does not exist in the manner expressed in the motion.

Mr. Palmer subscribes to the reasons given by Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Palmer subscribes to the reasons given by Mr. Mackay in his aforegoing minute, for putting his negative on the first and second question of the President on the 17th instant.

Mr. Dalrymple desires that the following be entered as an addition to his minute delivered in the 10th instant.

Mr. Dalrymple's minute, with extracts of letters to and from England, regarding the intercourse of individuals with the Nabob.

Since giving in my minute of the 10th June, I find some other parts of the records relative to the same subject, viz. Letter to England 29th September, 1770, latter part paragraph 19. "Mr. Johnson, "who notwithstanding he is included in the general prohibition, for- "bidding all persons living under the Company's protection from hav- "ing any transactions with the Nabob, is nevertheless *frequently* with "him, in direct opposition to the said order, and is therefore deserving "of the severest marks of our resentment."

The Court of Directors, 25th March, 1772, in reply to this letter concerning Mr. Johnson, say,

64. "You will also observe, that our former orders were intended "not only to prevent our *covenanted servants* from corresponding with "the country powers of India, but also to extend to all free merchants "and others, who reside in India under favour of the Company's in- "dulgence and protection."

Mr. Stone delivers in the following minute.

Mr. Stone's reply to some minutes on

I think it necessary to observe, in answer to some of the minutes delivered in this day, on the President's question relative to the propriety of

of visiting the Nabob, that by the said minutes it would appear that the motion made by the late President, Mr. Wynch, in 1775, against visiting the Nabob, was in consequence of the difficulty Mr. Wynch found in dissuading the Nabob from granting the Tanjore fort and country to his second Son. Whereas the minute of Mr. Wynch on the subject of Tanjore, was entered after the above motion had been put and carried in the affirmative; and I declare, I was utterly unacquainted with the intention of Mr. Wynch to deliver in any minute regarding Tanjore, until the same was actually laid before the Board; neither had I ever heard before, that any thing relating to that subject had passed between the Nabob and Mr. Wynch.

the subject of visiting the Nabob.

Minute of Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messrs. Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay.

Joint minute of Messrs. Stratton, &c. on the President's reply to the Nabob's complaints in his letter to Sir Edward Hughes.

The President having been pleased in his reply to the letter of complaint laid before the Board by Sir Edward Hughes, to acknowledge, first, "That of having threatened to place a guard near the Nabob's "person." Secondly, "That of having ordered a party of Seapoys "to march in the night to St. Thomé for another particular purpose;" It becomes a duty incumbent on us to give our opinion upon those points, lest our silence should pass for an implied approbation; a precedent *may* afterwards be founded, and pleaded in similar cases.

In forming a judgment on the points in question, it is impossible for us to adopt a mode more candid or respectful to the President, than (after attending to the motives and reasons assigned) to consider the respective acts, upon the grounds of the President's vindication of them. Adopting therefore this ground only, it is our opinion, that the President's threats to place a guard near the Nabob, for the purpose avowed, was altogether unjustifiable, and inconsistent with that decency and respect so often recommended by the Company, in the transaction of their affairs with the Nabob.

It

Secondly, It is our opinion, that the Prefident affumed a very dangerous authority, in ordering a military force to march to St. Thomé, to act there upon the bare information of his Hircarrah; and in juftice to ourfelves, we cannot but exprefs our entire difapprobation of the act itfelf, which we deem, in all its circumftances, to have been a very great indignity to the Nabob. When particular occafions require the exertion of military force, it is the duty of the Prefident to confult his Council, or if the public fafety fhould be endangered by a delay, it is incumbent upon him to make his report to the Council at the next meeting: but of this the Board remained ignorant, until the matter was long after brought before them by the Nabob, through the channel of Sir Edward Hughes.

Although we are of opinion that a letter ought to be written to the Nabob on the grounds of his complaints, yet confidering that the fentiments of the Board have been communicated to his Highnefs by Sir Edward Hughes, through whom the complaints were tranfmitted to us, and confidering that by the ftanding of the fervice, fuch a letter muft be figned by the Prefident, of whofe conduct we muft exprefs our difapprbation; delicacy induced us to let the matter reft here; for the opinion of our Superiors; and, on this occafion, we hope that the Nabob will reft fatisfied with what has been fo communicated to him through Sir Edward Hughes.

At the laft confultation, the Prefident laid before the Board an alarming account of crimes committed by the Nabob's people within the Company's jurifdiction, and concluded with a motion, "To recommend "to the Nabob to remove to Arcot." It is to be lamented that the Prefident had not before communicated to us thofe matters, that the offenders might have been brought to a trial.

Many years have paffed fince the Nabob came to refide here, and it is remarkable, that the numerous train of people that have followed

him, have hitherto afforded little caufe of complaint; nor do we recollect the Grand Juries to have prefented any evils to have refulted from the refidence of the Nabob or his people at Madras.

The Company have fent us their opinion relative to fuits in the Mayor's Court againft fervants of the Nabob, which is favourable towards them; yet they have at times been fued in that Court, and fatisfaction given to the complainants; and we doubt not of the Nabob's willingnefs to give redrefs, when reprefentations may be made to him.

The great increafe of the inhabitants, and the confequence of trade, and the profperity of this fettlement, are inconteftible proofs of the advantages refulting from the Nabob's refidence here. Were he to leave Madras, great numbers of people would follow him, and the Company's revenues thereby be decreafed.

The bufinefs arifing from the connection between the Nabob and the Company, is more eafily managed here than it could be at a diftance; and what is of more importance, the defiring him to leave Madras would carry with it, in the eyes of the country powers, a manifeft appearance of a breach of that friendfhip which has fo long fubfifted between the Englifh and the Nabob, and might be productive of the worft of confequences to both.

Were it admitted, that intrigues have been carried on, or are carrying on at the Durbar, no danger can be apprehended from them, under the attention of this government; but were the Nabob obliged to remove in difguft, intrigues might be carried on from whence real danger might arife. At any rate, had his Highnefs's removal been neceffary, which we never can allow, the prefent, of all times, appears to us the moft improper.

Mr. Mackay's motion that the resolution respecting the Nabob's letter to Sir Edward Hughes, be rescinded.

As the resolution on the Nabob's letter to Sir Edward Hughes was carried by the President's casting vote, though in Mr. Mackay's opinion a party concerned, and though the opinion of one of the Members for the question, Mr. Brooke, appears doubtful; Mr. Mackay moves, that the resolution be now rescinded.

Sir Robert Fletcher moves that the resolution prohibiting intercourse with the Nabob be rescinded.

Sir Robert Fletcher begs leave to represent to the Board, that he has had the records examined, and can find no such *standing order of the Company* as was quoted by the President on Monday last, and upon which he imagines *some* of the members of the Board were induced to vote for his Lordship's second motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher further.—That upon considering attentively the words in which that motion is conceived, he finds that members of the Board may be thought by some (though innocently) to offend against the resolution which passed upon that motion, merely because they do not, and he thinks cannot shut their doors in the faces of the Nabob and his sons, when they happen, which they sometimes do, to drop in an evening to visit his family.

And as for Sir Robert Fletcher himself, he must repeat that there are frequent complaints made to him from the out-garrisons, of disputes between the officers under his command and the Nabob's officers, and against some of the officers of the Company in the Nabob's service, upon points of duty; these, in consequence of a message from the Commander in Chief to the Nabob, or to one of his sons, or a message from one of them to the Commander in Chief, are in general amicably settled by him.

For all these reasons Sir Robert hopes the impropriety of the resolution on the President's second motion on Monday last will strike every member of the Board, and he therefore moves that the resolution be rescinded.

Mr.

Mr. Dawſon having been preſent when the queſtions of the Preſident on the 17th inſtant were carried in the affirmative, it is reſolved that he be ſummoned to attend at the next conſultation, when the foregoing queſtions of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Mackay will be taken into conſideration.

Mr. Floyer's minute on the Preſident's reply to the complaints of the Nabob in his letter to Sir Edward Hughes.

The joint minute of Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, which has been read at this day's meeting, calls forth my attention, particularly to the letter of complaint from the Nabob, tranſmitted to this Board through the channel of Sir Edward Hughes, and the meaſures which have been taken in conſequence.

There are ſome parts of the Preſident's vindication inſerted in the reply of the Board to Sir Edward Hughes, which appear to encroach upon the fundamental civil rights of the Britiſh Conſtitution. I allude to the circumſtances of his Lordſhip's having threatened to place a guard near the Nabob's perſon, in order to apprehend and bring before him, the Preſident, any perſons who might be going to viſit his Highneſs, and of having ordered a party of Seapoys to march in the night to St. Thomé for another particular purpoſe.

The apprehending or detaining of perſons on any occaſion or pretence whatſoever, except on information received of treaſonable practices againſt the ſtate, by a military force, within the reach of civil juriſdiction, unleſs ſuch military force is called in aid of the civil power, is a circumſtance of the moſt ſerious nature, becauſe it is repugnant to the laws of our country and to the Britiſh conſtitution, and conſequently may ſubject all Britiſh ſubjects exerciſing ſuch illegal authority to many inconveniences in our courts of juſtice.

If any perſon tranſgreſſes the law within our civil juriſdiction, the method of proceeding againſt him is ſo plainly pointed out to us, that

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in my opinion we cannot eaſily miſtake it. A civil magiſtrate, with his proper officers, muſt endeavour to bring ſuch offenders to juſtice. If in the attempt he requires the aid of military force, he applies for it, and it cannot be refuſed him.

Whether any perſon tranſgreſſes the law, by viſiting the Nabob at Chepauk, is not indeed a queſtion now before us for diſcuſſion; but I cannot on this occaſion avoid to offer as my opinion, that unleſs ſuch perſon is accuſed of other miſdemeanors, we ſhould not be juſtified by the laws of our country in cauſing him to be apprehended within our juriſdiction, or elſewhere, either by a civil or a military power.

I am happy in approving the delicacy obſerved towards the Preſident, reſpecting the letter which thoſe gentlemen are of opinion ought to be written to the Nabob, in reply to the complaints tranſmitted to us by Sir Edward Hughes. Regularity in the Board's proceedings might poſſibly require ſuch communication to the Nabob of its ſentiments on this occaſion; but as his Highneſs has been already informed of them, I entirely concur in opinion with thoſe Gentlemen, that the matter ſhould reſt here for the deciſion of our Superiors, in the hope that the Nabob will be ſatisfied with the information received from Sir Edward Hughes.

I have already given my ſentiments upon the Preſident's motion for recommending to the Nabob his removal with his family to Arcot.

Came in the following letter:

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, Prefident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

From Sir Edward Hughes, expreffing his readinefs to be of fervice to the Company.

I HAVE received your favour of yefterday, accompanying an extract of a letter to your Prefidency from the Honourable the Court of Directors, dated the 22d December, 1775, and take this opportunity again to affure you of my readinefs at all times, when called on for that purpofe, to render any fervice in my power with his Majefty's fhips under my command, either to eftablifh or to promote the intereft or advantage of the Company in this, or in any other part of India. I am with the greateft efteem and regard,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moft obedient

and moft humble fervant,

EDWARD HUGHES.

Salifbury,
in Madras-Road,
19th June, 1776.

Tuefday, 25th June, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION, 25th June, 1776. Prefent as before.

The Minutes of laft Confultation read and approved.

Minute of the Board on the Nabob's claims to Hanamantagoody, and determining the property thereof to be vefted in the Rajah of Tanjore.

THE Nabob, in his letter of the 26th ultimo, having complained that Seapoys belonging to the Company, with fome of Tuljaujee's people, had arrived in his country to feize diftricts not included in the Tanjore country, but wholly appertaining to Ramnaut (Great Marawa), and Shoagungaw (Little Marawa or Nelcootah), the Board proceed to take the fame into confideration.

From the Company's letter per Grenville, 12th April, 1775, it appears their orders are, that the Rajah fhall be put in poffeffion of fuch places as he held when the treaty between him and the Nabob was guarantied by the Englifh; and on reference to the Nabob's inftruc-

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tions to Mr. Dupré in June, 1762, to Mr. Dupré's reply, and to the Rajah's representations, 25th March 1771, extracts of which are entered hereafter, it appearing that Hanamantagoody was actually in the Rajah's possession at that period, it is resolved, That an answer be written to the Nabob to tell him, that agreeable to his desire the records have been consulted with respect to Hanamantagoody, wherein it is found, that by his own instructions to Mr. Dupré when he went to Tanjore in 1762, that Hanamantagoody was at that time in possession of the Rajah; and therefore, in pursuance to the Company's orders, that it appears to this Board, as they hope it will to him, that the Rajah ought to be put in possession of it.

The Nabob to be advised accordingly.

Extract of the Nabob's Instructions to Mr. Dupré in 1762, Country Correspondence. No. 74, Par. 5th.

Extracts from the records relating to the Nabob's claim to Hanamantagoody.

WITH regard to the fort of Hanamantagoody belonging to the country of Marawar under Trichinopoly, Colonel Caillaud himself went and tried to prevent its being taken. Colonel Heron on his part sent an English flag from Tinnevelly, but the King absolutely refused to listen to him, and took the said fort by assault, and tore the flag. Besides which he took by force the Gady of Mangal Goody, Woron Cotah, and the Gady of Bonagary with its districts, the revenues amounting to two Lacks of Rupees.

The King also possessed himself of the Gady Kearanally Cotah Yarambanad, &c. belonging to Tondeman, under Trichinopoly, amounting to about a Lack of Rupees.

The King likewise possessed himself of Saijah Cotah with its districts, belonging to Tondeman, amounting to about a Lack of Rupees.

Extract of Mr. Dupré's Letter to the Nabob, 29th June, 1762. Country Correspondence, No. 77.

HE (the Rajah) produces a letter from you, wherein you give your consent that he might attack the Marawar and Natah Poligars.

Extract

Extract of a Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore to the Governor, received 14th October, 1762, entered in Country Correspondence, No. 131.

WITH respect to my possession of the districts of Tana in the Colleries country, I shall keep what I have at present, and shall not strive to make new conquests. Should the Poligars raise any disturbances in the Forts and Tanas which I have at present as above, you will be pleased to send your orders to them. Neither the English nor the Nabob should assist the Poligars.

Extract of a Letter from the Governor to the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 19th October, 1762, entered in Country Correspondence, No. 134, Par. 3d.

THE sense and meaning of the treaty is, that if you comply with the articles agreed to be performed by you, the Nabob is to maintain a firm friendship with you, and not to give you any disturbance. I desire therefore you will make yourself perfectly easy in respect to the Poligars; they shall not be assisted either by me or the Nabob in giving you any disturbance, if you on your part do not molest them.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, 25th March, 1771. Country Correspondence, No. 67.

I HAVE received your Honour's friendly letter, and observe the contents.

You was pleased to say, that you have been informed of my detaching an army to fight against Marawar *, as also of my setting out in person; acquainting me at the same time, that it was improper in me to undertake the said enterprize before I advise you with it.

* See the ideas of the Select Committee on this subject, in their letter of the 28th of February, 1772, referred to by Governor Wynch, and annexed to his letter, page X.

Let me take the liberty to inform you, that when my deceaſed father placed Bavanny Sunker Zavier in the government, Nalcooty was but a common watcher, who was raiſed to power by granting him a ſhare in the Marawar country. At that time Naid, or Gentoo Rajah, was reigning in the Trichinopoly country.

After the ſaid Bavanny Sunker, one Cotta Zewin was eſtabliſhed in the government. Thus it was hereditary cuſtom with us to place them in the government. Was there any Nalcooty before? or who was it that raiſed him to that power? I deſire you will aſk his own Vackeel concerning this affair.

The above cuſtom has been obſerved from former times; now Maraver hath taken upon himſelf to ſeize the country that was enjoyed by us to this day, ſince the time of my deceaſed father. I often ſent him word to quit the country, but he continued to behave himſelf baſely.

When you came to this place to ſettle a treaty, a mention of this affair was made to you; you was then pleaſed to ſay, that we were at liberty to clear our own country. A mention was alſo made to the Nabob concerning our country in poſſeſſion of Maravar, when we ſent troops againſt the commandant, the Nabob was then pleaſed to ſay that he had ſent for the Maravar's aſſiſtance to him at that juncture of time, ſo that we ſhould clear our country afterwards, for with reaſon I was in hopes to this day that the Nabob and your Honour will give give ſtrict orders to the Maravar to reſtore our country, and alſo wrote to my Vackeel on that head; but you and the Nabob did not get the country reſtored to me; beſides which, when the elephants (relating to my preſent from Negapatam) were coming, Nalcooty pretending that the veſſels were drove aſhore by a ſtorm in his ſea-ports, ſeized the elephants, and detained them, concerning which I ſent him word, as well as to your Honour, but he did

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not return them to me. If I suffer Marawar to take poſſeſſion of my country, Nalcooty to ſeize my elephants, and Tondeman to injure my country, it will be very great diſhonour to me among the people to ſee ſuch compulſions uſed by the Polygars; you are a protector of my government, notwithſtanding you have not ſettled even a ſingle affair belonging to me. If I ſtay quiet, I ſhall greatly hurt my dignity, wherefore I marched myſelf. If you now adviſe me to deſiſt, what anſwer can I make to it?

In the treaty it was not forbidden to clear the country poſſeſſed by Marawar, or to undertake an expedition againſt the Polygars, who may uſe compulſions; ſince it is ſo, it cannot be deemed contrary to the treaty. You was pleaſed to write, that if I deſiſt in my preſent expedition, you will then ſettle the affairs in a reaſonable manner. I continued to ſpeak to you for this long time concerning this affair, but you have not ſettled it; notwithſtanding, if you now write, that I did not acquaint you before I began it, what anſwer can I make to it? I did not undertake to do any thing contrary to the hereditary cuſtom obſerved. You are well acquainted with all affairs, and deſire you will examine thoroughly into this affair. I have finiſhed the affairs relating to Marawar, and confirmed him in his buſineſs. The affair with Nalcootah remains to be finiſhed, which I ſhall alſo finiſh. For other matters I have wrote to Sambagee Vackeel, to which I refer you.

What can I ſay more?

N. B. The words of my deceaſed father in the original, may be applied both to the father and grandfather.

In conſequence of the above reſolution of the Board, with reſpect to Hanamantagoody, the Right Honourable the Preſident lays before them the following draft of a letter which he has prepared, in anſwer to the Nabob's letters of the 22d and 26th ultimo, entered in Country Correſpondence, No. 47.

To the Nabob.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

Letter to the Nabob reſpecting his title to Hanamantagooody

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 22d and 26th ultimo.

I did hope that the impartial, the open and friendly manner in which I have conducted myſelf towards your Highneſs, might have induced you to believe me incapable of an act of injuſtice; and if I built not upon your approval of every part of my conduct in the execution of the Company's orders, I truſted that you could not ſo generally complain thereof, as you do in your letter of the 26th.

My eſteemed friend, be not fed up with the hopes that my employers will ever contradict their orders concerning Tanjore. Thoſe orders are founded upon juſtice, from which they cannot depart: and in the very firſt paragraph of the letter received lately from England by the Royal Henry, the Company expreſs their ſolicitude to have thoſe orders carried into effect.

With reſpect to Hanamantagoody, you are pleaſed to deſire me to conſult the records; I have done ſo; and find by your own inſtructions to Mr. Dupré, when he went to Tanjore, in 1762, That Hanamantagoody was then in poſſeſſion of the Rajah, and therefore, in purſuance to the Company's orders, it appears to me that it ought to be reſtored to the Rajah, and I hope it will appear ſo to your Highneſs.

On the 14th June it was reſolved, " That it is the opinion of the " Board, that the Nabob had a right to the government ſhare of the " crop in the Tanjore country, the produce of grain ſown during the " time it was in his poſſeſſion, and that any mortgages he may have " given on the ſame are good."

Your Highneſs will be the beſt judge what information from your Highneſs to me on this matter is neceſſary.

Mr.

Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, deſire it may be minuted, that they approve of this letter, as far as it correſponds with the ſentiments expreſſed by them reſpectively upon theſe ſubjects on the records.

Sir Robert Fletcher begs leave to remind the Board, that he complained in Council, very ſoon after the arrival of the Grenville, of impediments thrown in his way in the execution of the powers veſted in him by the late military inſtructions of the General Court: and he deſires to call to the recollection of the Board, the promiſe then made him by the Right Honourable the Preſident, that after the diſpatch of the Ankerwyke, an early day ſhould be ſet apart for taking thoſe orders and inſtructions of the Company into conſideration. Sir Robert is in no doubt himſelf with reſpect to any part of the inſtructions, for he thinks them extremely clear, and not to be miſunderſtood. But as doubts have ariſen, and as the ſervice is not carried on agreeably to the Company's orders, he deſires the opinion of the Board may be taken upon ſuch points as may not appear clear to any of the members, that he may be enabled to execute the powers veſted in him by the Company's orders.

Sir Robert Fletcher's minute reſpecting the impediments to his executing the powers veſted in him by the military inſtructions.

Agreed, that this day ſevennight be ſet apart for the conſideration of this buſineſs, and that the Commander in Chief be requeſted to point out to the Board ſuch impediments as he finds to exiſt in the preſent ſyſtem.

The Commander in Chief lays before the Board the following letter which he has received from Col. Stuart:

To Brigadier General Sir Robert Fletcher, Commander in Chief of the Forces under the Preſidency of Madras, &c.

PERMIT me, Sir, to take this occaſion of repreſenting to you, with becoming deference, that according to the beſt information I am able

Letter from Colonel Stuart to Sir Robert

Fletcher, representing Tanjore as the most considerable station, and requesting to be appointed to command there.

able to obtain respecting the importance of the several military posts or commands where the principle officers under this Presidency are at present placed, it seems to me that the command of the troops in the fort and garrison of Tanjore, with the dependencies in that country, where the Company have so lately acquired influence, is on every account, at this crisis, the most important of any under this Presidency.

Thus impressed, I should be wanting to myself, and to the rank I have the honour to hold next to you, if I did not take occasion, through your means, to represent to the Honourable Board, that according to the general practice or course of military service, the most responsible command under this Presidency does, by the rank I hold, belong to me, in case you yourself, Sir, do not occupy that post. I do not infer from thence, that the Honourable Board may not at their own discretion appoint me to any station, and I know it is my duty first to obey. But I hope, Sir, through your favourable representation to the Board, that the usual practice of the army will on this occasion take place, especially as it seems to have been the rule observed in the last distribution of cantonments or quarters for the troops on this establishment, recommended in 1775, by General Smith, where the choice of the principal commands is expresly left to Colonel Lang as the senior Colonel.

In this manner I esteem it a duty, through you, to represent this matter to the Honourable Board, and shall think myself peculiarly happy if it meets with your recommendation and support.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient

Fort St. George, and most faithful humble servant,

June 22d, 1766. JAMES STUART.

Ordered to lie upon the table.

AT

AT A CONSULTATION, July 1, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Prefident.

Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruffell
Alexander Dalrymple
Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
George Mackay.

Monday, 1ft July 1776.

The following obfervations by Mr. Dalrymple on certain parts of the proceedings relative to Tanjore, are now read.

Mr Dalrymple's obfervations on the diffents to the proceedings of the Board, 25th March.

Having, before I went to Tanjore, declared my intention to give in fome obfervations on the diffents to the proceedings of the Board the 25th March, delivered into Council the 29th of that month, I take this occafion to do fo.

First Queftion.

Mr. Dalrymple's obfervations on the diffents to the refolutions of the Council, 29May, 1776.

The diffenting members all declare that they agreed to the 1ft queftion, " That it was *proper* and *neceffary* for the Prefident to go to Tanjore, " For the reafons fet forth in his minute," in idea that fome *members* of the *Board* would have been added in deputation by a fubfequent motion.

Obfervations on the minutes of the majority, 17 June, 1776.

If a *deputation* of the members of the Board had been made choice of, it could not furely be thought that it was *neceffary* for the Prefident to leave

leave the Prefidency, as a member of that inferior deliberation Board. The Prefident ought never to leave the Prefidency, but on fome great and important occafion.

The objections made againft the Prefident's going folely are: "That "the meafure appears *unconftitutional*, *becaufe every Member* of the *Go-* Mr. Jourdan. "*vernment* confenting to the prefent mode, is thereby rendered accoun- "table for meafures on which he cannot well advife, much lefs vote."

Had there been feveral members in a deputation, would not the other members remaining at the Prefidency be equally incapable *of advifing* the *deputation* as *advifing* the Prefident? This argument therefore has no foundation.

Mr. Mackay. "That a bufinefs of fo much importance, as taking a country of about "a million fterling a year from the Nabob, and giving it to the Rajah A. "required fuch a deputation---had the Court of Directors judged it ne- "ceffary to leave the management of this bufinefs folely to the Prefident, "their orders would have expreffed it, and, *therefore giving him greater* G. "*powers* than the Court of Directors *have done*, is inconfiftent with our "duty to the Company, and with what we owe to ourfelves."

This objection is grounded on a falfe affumption, *viz.* that greater powers are vefted in the Prefident by the Board, than by the Court of Directors; the Prefident is vefted with no fuch powers; his commiffion is to *carry* into *execution* the Company's orders, and the Court of Directors in the 2d Paragraph of their feparate letter per Grenville, exprefs, that their hopes of fuccefs particularly depended on the peculiar abilities of the Prefident. The executive part of Government naturally muft be vefted in the Prefident; and as the object was unanimoufly thought fufficiently important to require the Prefident to proceed to Tanjore, it would furely have been improper to have joined any perfon in Commiffion with the Prefident;

President; since Mr. Du Pre, then a young member of the Council, had been solely intrusted in 1762. Such a junction would in the eyes of the Rajah of Tanjore, have lessened the consequence of the President, and would have had still a worse effect upon the people, who were struck in the most sensible manner with the idea of the justice of the Company, when they saw the Governor himself proceeding to Tanjore to carry their orders into effect.

The objection made of its being a very *dangerous precedent*, I think of no consequence, because precedents are only of consequence in *ordinary* matters; in extraordinary, the precedent will always be *made* if it cannot be *found*. No man is a greater friend to order than I am; but I will never sacrifice *essentials* to *order*, which only merits estimation as it is productive of essential benefit. Mr. Mackay, Mr. Jourdan, Sir R. Fletcher. D.

Second Question. Mr. Mackay. E.

Objection is made, as "It impowers the President to carry with him "members of the Board, who ought to act as principals." Sir R. Fletcher. E.

Sir Robert Fletcher, in the debate, said it was derogatory to the dignity of a member of the council to act in any subordinate capacity. I at that time observed, that for my own part I had no such feelings; and that I had frequently been an amanuensis to Lord Pigot, without feeling my dignity as a Counsellor hurt; and that although I had no reason to suppose Lord Pigot had any intention of carrying me with him to Tanjore, I would certainly be very ready to give him any assistance in my power, at all times and places; but that I would only assent to the question, in case it was understood that such persons should not be joined in authority with the President.

Third

Third Question.

By the Commission of Government, the authority of this Government extends not only to Fort St. George, but to every Fort, Factory, and Settlement, within any of the Territories subject to this Presidency.

Mr. Mackay. Sir Robert Fletcher. F. It seems therefore ridiculous, if the Board determine the *President's presence* to be *necessary* at any *particular place* within the jurisdiction of his Government, to say, that *he* should be at such place in an *inferior* capacity to other servants of the Company.

A. Mr. Jourdan explains himself, by confining the authority of the Governor to such places, as any civil servants of the Company now exercise military authority, but that this authority would not extend to other places.

If it be admitted, that the authority of the Governor and Council extends to Tanjore, &c. it seems to be a natural inference, that the authority of the Governor, when on the spot, must exist as far as the said authority extends.

It is true the extent of the Governor's authority is properly limited to the Company's servants and affairs at such place, but the authority of the President and Council is limited in like manner, and in neither can be minutely defined; but wherever the President has authority, it surely must be admitted, he cannot by *his presence* forfeit that authority.

Mr. Mackay. G. It is alledged, that by the means of the President's Body Guard, a majority of the Council may put every part of the army under his command.

That

That the Prefident, with a majority of the Council, may fupercede any of the military regulations, is very true, becaufe there is fuch an authority vefted in them by thofe regulations; but there is no reafon to fuppofe the Prefident would be inclined to leave the prefidency without very fufficient reafon; nor that the majority of the Council would confent to unneceffary abfence from his Chief Truft.

Mr. Mackay mentions, that the military arrangements in the Tanjore Country required the prefence of the Commander in Chief; In reply, it is fufficient to fay, Lord Pigot expreffed a wifh, that Sir Robert Fletcher would accompany him to Tanjore. B.

Obfervations on the Diffents on the Refolution of Council, 29th May, 1776.

Mr. MACKAY's diffent, vide my Minute, 10 June, paragraph 11. A.

Any part of the crop being cut, owing to the Nabob's non compliance with the Company's orders, and *whole not* cut down, and *therefore* orders not good. B.

Spirit of the Company's orders for Nabob to have his expenfes only. C.

Becaufe the Company could not fuppofe any fuch. B.

Vide Publick Advertifement, 3d Nov. 1769, in confultation, figned by Mr. Mackay. E.

Orders as proper now as ever. Public difficulties and hindrance of Company's bufinefs notorious. F.

G. Act of Parliament does not supersede any order.

H. The Company does not entirely agree with Mr. Mackay.

Mr. JOURDAN's Dissent.

A. Query. What crops on the ground when orders granted; the last in, November the first in.

B. Not the fact; money lent on *bond* and *assignments* of countries *subsequent*.

C. State of affairs in that respect not changed, always profitable to *the lender* and to the *native*, but perplexing to the company.

D. The Company's express orders, the creditors shall have no intercourse but through the President and Council; and no person but the President to have any correspondence with the Country Government; vide letter of 22d March, 1771, paragraph 2.

E. Dutch payment only appears as a bill of exchange *without reproof*; no revocative of orders; particularly as Mr. Benfield's Letter 3d September so strong.

F. Vide Company's orders, and Mr. Benfield's letter, 3d Sept. 1773.

G. Q. When, where, and by whom? Mr. Benfield has charged the Company's sepoys; but when called upon for particular charge has not made any.

I. Because Mr. Benfield did it before his return.

Observations

Observations on Sir Robert Fletcher's Dissent on the Resolution of Council, 29th May, 1776.

Mr. Benfield has a *claim upon us*, a right to our *support*, if the *obstructions* he meets with *arise* from *acts committed* by *authority* of this Government, and if by the *authority* of the *Rajah* himself, *after* his *restoration*, *reason to expect* all the assistance our *influence* can give him. R.

One would naturally infer from hence, that the nature of Mr. Benfield's complaints must have been investigated before any resolution was taken in his behalf; but on the contrary, Mr. Benfield has given in no particular charge against either the Rajah's officers or the Company's, so that we are ignorant by what *authority* the *acts* have been committed, and indeed whether any have been committed that are improper.

The distinct ideas annexed to *our support* and *all* the *assistance* our influence can *give*, I must leave to more acute penetration than mine.

Sir Robert Fletcher continues. "In the latter case we should explain to "the Rajah the *universal law* of nations, by which it is *implied* that the "in dividual is still to be protected in *his rights*, though the *bands* of "*government* are *changed*." A.

What is meant by the *universal law of nations* I cannot divine. The *law* of nations is the dictates of *common sense* and *common justice*; one of the positions here laid down, that a country is *liable* to the *assignment* of its former *government*, is incompatible with either.

In this present case the assignments are equivalent to almost *two* years entire revenues of the Tanjore country; and on these principles the assignments

aſſignments might as well have been to the amount of 20 or 200 years revenue as to the amount of *two.*

The law of nations is a very vague line to decide matters of property; and indeed does not with any propriety extend ſo far; but where there are no *ſpecial capitulations,* every man's claims muſt be decided by the eſtabliſhed government of the country; and ſo far were theſe principles, here pretended, to be the *univerſal law of nations,* from actuating the Nabob, that even the *jewels* were taken from the Rajah's women; and it has been reported (I do not know by what authority) that theſe very jewels have been pledged by the Nabob as a collateral ſecurity; and whatever *private motives,* or engagements, may have induced the Nabob to pay the *European* claims where he got poſſeſſion of Tanjore, the Company's records ſhew, that *he* paid no *attention* to the private property of the inhabitants. On our return from Tanjore, beſides 420 fine Guzerat Cows, many Elephants, &c. belonging to the Rajah, we ſaw a great number of cattle which had been brought away from the Tanjore country. Capt. Povery's letter (mentioned in Lord Pigot's Diary) alſo teſtifies that the Haccaries, &c. of the Tanjore people were ſent away by the Nabob, and the whole country bears the marks of the unrelenting hand of rapacious devaſtation.

It is notorious, that when the hands of government are changed, the engagement of a former government to *individuals* are not *implied* to be ſecure; and it is ſcarcely neceſſary to confirm this by obſerving, that it is commonly underſtood that the National Debt was a political ſtroke at the Revolution, to intereſt the public in ſupport of the new eſtabliſhed government.

I have read many authors on the law of nations, but I never found the *univerſal law* Sir Rober Fletcher refers to.

The

"The part the Government have taken, in changing the government "of the Tanjore country would make them anxious, &c." B.

Here is a falſe aſſumption. "That the government of the Tanjore country has been changed by the Company's orders to reſtore the Rajah;" but the truth is this, the Engliſh were guarantees to preſerve the Rajah in his government; but the Nabob, with the aſſiſtance of the Company's troops, having in violation of that guarantee got poſſeſſion of Tanjore; the Company direct, that the country be reſtored to the Rajah, and the ſpirit of the Company's orders certainly is, that the Nabob ſhould not *profit* by this act of *his injuſtice* to the Rajah, although they deſpair of being able to obtain an account of his receipts and diſburſements, by which they would be enabled to form a competent judgement.

In addition to what is ſaid, paragraph 24 of minute 10th June, it may be obſerved, that without a full expoſition of the nature and dates of the various orders, it is highly improper at any rate to interfere in Mr. Benfield's behalf, as *that influence* may be exerted to the injury of other claimants, who may have a right of preference, and certainly have at leaſt an equal right to ſhare. C.

I ſuppoſe by *loans advanced*, is meant the money lent by Mr. Benfield to the Nabob; but as before obſerved, theſe loans were not on the *crops*, but on *bond*, and the aſſignment of the crops a ſubſequent tranſaction. The poſition being erroneous, it will be unneceſſary to examine the inferences. D.

The Nabob, it is true, gave in general deſcriptions of his heavy expences, but he abſolutely refuſed to ſpecify particulars; and the Dobbeer declared he had received ſo large a ſum as 40 Laks nearly, beſides E.

the plunder, which muſt ſurely be conſidered as more than adequate to to all his expences

F. The King of Tanjore being left without even the neceſſaries for a private family, and all the principal inhabitants in the whole country being diſtreſſed and plundered, the unavoidable expenſe to the Rajah on the reſtoration muſt be very great; and nothing can better ſhew the unbecoming manner in which the Nabob kept him, than his being (as Sir Robert Fletcher has repreſented) under the neceſſity to apply to him for the loan of ſome money to defray the funeral charges of a relation; and although I think it would have been more proper in ſuch a ſituation for the company, than for any individuals to have adminiſtered to his neceſſities; charity, as the ſcripture ſays, covers a multitude of ſins.

G. It is ſomewhat extraordinary to ſee this poſt-facto obſervation. Neither Sir Robert Fletcher, nor any other perſon made ſuch a propoſition, before the board reſolved, that the Preſident ſhould proceed to Tanjore to carry the Company's orders into effect; nor has Sir Robert Fletcher made any ſuch propoſition in his minute of the beginning of March.

H. This is begging the queſtion. There is no reaſon to ſuppoſe the ruin of individuals will enſue from the eſtabliſhment of the Rajah's government. There is great reaſon to believe that the Nabob is already amply recompenſed for all his expenſes, and therefore there can be no pretence for ſaddling the Rajah with his order. Private claims, if juſt and proper, will unqueſtionably be ſettled equitably, if we judge from the readineſs with which the Rajah complied with Major Martinz's repreſentation, which were the only complaints concerning private property made whilſt Lord Pigot was at Tanjore.

That

That the orders in Queen *Ann's days* are still in force, and have been frequently confirmed, seems clearly proven by the extracts added to my minute, 10 June. The late Act of Parliament, so far from *superceding*, *confirms all former* regulations not expresly revoked. I.

Before Lord Pigot proceeded to Tanjore, his Lordship mentioned to the Board, that he was told the Nabob had given orders on the Tanjore country, to the amount of almost 20 Lacks of Pagodas; but that he had been unable to prevail on his Highness to give him an authentic account. The matter being only on rumour, never came officially before the board, nor was a word said of it when the resolutions of 25 March were taken; but when Sir Robert Fletcher at the subsequent consultation gave in his dissent, the Tankars * were there mentioned, as one reason for that dissent. I objected to this, as being directly contrary to all order to insert in a dissent *new matter*; a dissent being to be understood only as a clear statement of the objections made in debate, because a *resolution* is taken on what is *then* before the Board, and might have been very different had either circumstances of consideration been introduced. At the same time I declared, that I could not think common report was a sufficient ground for bringing in a matter to the deliberation of the board, and I know only from report there were Tankars. Sir Robert Fletcher by the advice of some of his friends withdrew this part of his dissent, and the matter of the Tankars was not introduced in any other form to the consideration of the board before our departure for Tanjore. K.

Sir Robert Fletcher concludes his dissent by declaring himself in no *manner accessary* to the measure, either of *obstructing* or *superceding* the claims of any private property whatsoever in Tanjore country, and that therefore he stands *legally* acquitted of all consequences that the *Company* or their *Agents* may be subjected to by this measure.

* Assignments, or orders for money.

Having

Having thus exonerated himſelf from the charge; it muſt be left to Sir Robert Fletcher to explain his motives, for again taking ſo active a part in the buſineſs.

Obſervations on the minute of the majority delivered in the 17th June, 1776.

B. When Lord Pigot laid the draught of the general letter per Ankerwyke before the Board, the plan ſtood in his name; ſome of the members deſired that it might be explained in the name of the Council, that all might have their ſhare of the credit; but no one ever mentioned at that time that this was a plan already recommended to the Court of

A. Directors; and the minute now referred to was the firſt intimation I ever received of ſuch a plan having been ſent home.

C. It is ſcarcely neceſſary to ſay, that what appears in the majority's minute as a *quotation*, by being marked with inverted commas, is neither in the *words*, nor the ſubſtance of the objections made by any of the minority. No one ever dreamt, that "Adjudging the crop to be the "*Nabob's* was improper, becauſe Mr. Benfield's *claims* were not warranted "by the Company's orders;" But it was *improper*, becauſe the Nabob ought to have complied with the Company's orders by the Grenville; and if he had done ſo, the Rajah would have been in full poſſeſſion

D. before any crop was reaped; and by the Dobbeer's memorandum, it appears that the enormities of the Nabob's Tankadars drove the inhabitants from their homes to the general detrement of the country".

E. My extract from the letter of 10th April 1771, contained all that I thought relative to the matter; and ſo far from garbling the paragraphs, I inſerted the motives the Company aſſigned; at the ſame time, I think orders do not require ſuch a recital, as an order is *generally* binding, although the *particular caſe* for which the order was *made* may not again exactly

exactly occur. I do not know what is meant by "*These* orders not being *before communicated* to the Board;" the Company's orders are open to every Member of the Council.

The Company's lenity and indulgence cannot fairly be considered as a revocation of their orders; I have already observed, that the Company's passing over without reproof Mr. Benfield's connection with the country government concerning the Dutch bills, was not, in my opinion, an approbation of his conduct: The Company may undoubtedly pass over without punishment a breach of their orders from various motives, and Mr. Benfield's letter of 3d September 1773, *avowing his obedience to their orders* might operate with the Company in his behalf. In regard to the president (Mr. Wynch's) minute on that occasion quoted by the majority, I must beg leave to say, that I have been told it was introduced by way of exculpation, in consequence of some members of the Board having taken notice that Mr. Benfield's name there had an odd appearance. F. G. H.

Although the late Act of Parliament "Expresly restrains the rate "of interest only, and does not except to the condition of the borrower;" the act does not supersede the orders and regulations of the Company, but on the contrary, it *generally* confirms such as are not specially set aside.

In explanation of my remark, "That the Marattas may take a part," I think it not amiss to observe, that it is reported, when application was made at Poonah in behalf of the Nabob, the Maratta replied, "That if "the Nabob sent his Vackeel to Poonah to settle the Tanjore business, "then he might tell what he wanted;" and would not let *his name* stand in the treaty; though nothing more was asked than to have him mentioned as an old friend and ally to the English.

K. The majority in their minute, declare they " Mean not to do more " than recommend to the Rajah to see that justice be done, leaving the " *manner* and *time* to himself, and have not an idea that *this government* " ought to go *further without orders* from our superiors." They add, " they never meant that the Rajah, or country, should be accountable " for more than the Government's share of the crop, whatever that might " be; and from the President's report of the Dobbeer's information, it " was only about *three* Lacks of Pagodas."

If the letter resolved to be written in Mr. Benfield's behalf has any effect, does not that *virtually* deprive other claimants of *their share* of the *three* lacks? for Mr. Benfield's claim being for a larger sum, if he receives these three Lacks there will remain nothing for the others; and we may then be told, that this preference in behalf of Mr. Benfield was *illegal* influence, and new claims be raised on that account.

M. Concerning the accounts, I shall not pretend to decide, whether the information Lord Pigot received in the Tanjore country, or the understanding of the majority is most to be relied on. I shall only say, that Colonel Harper informed me, some time after our troops were in Tanjore, Nazeet Cawn's (the Nabob's Killedar) family, and the *accounts* which had been *carried away* were *brought back*, which raised the greatest apprehensions in the Rajah, who sent for Colonel Harper, and expressed his fears that the Nabob had bought off the Administration here; I mention this to shew how very cautious we ought to be in giving rise to any apprehensions in the Rajah, who, unless his confidence in the Company is preserved, will unquestionably turn his eyes to the Marattas as his natural support.

N. What the evils were which would have fallen on the Company, had the resolution been confirmed, " That the Nabob's assignments were inad- " missible,"

" missible," I neither know nor can imagine; as a member of Government, I think myself bound to act for the political interest and honor of the public; and apprehensions of law suits, either to the Company or myself, shall never influence me; and if the Company should think the claims made on the Tanjore country, are just and proper (which I am convinced they will not) the influence of the Company's Government might then be used with less danger and some propriety; but after the signal instance of public justice, so acceptable to the power and natives of India in general, and so honourable to the nation, I think this Government is not warranted in taking any step which may in the smallest degree affect those salutary measures.

AT A CONSULTATION, 8th July 1776.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, President.

Monday 8, July.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
	Henry Brooke
Claud Russell	Alexander Dalrymple
Charles Floyer	J. M. Stone
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

The

The minutes of laſt conſultation read and approved.

Sir Robert Fletcher deſires his motion may be conſidered.

Sir Robert Fletcher deſires that his motion entered in conſultation 24th ultimo, for reſcinding the reſolution of the 17th ultimo, on the preſident's 2nd queſtion, about members of the Board not viſiting or receiving meſſages from the Nabob or his ſons, may now be taken into conſideration.

Obſervations of the Preſident thereon, objecting to putting the queſtion, and remarking the impropriety of reconſidering and reſcinding at a ſucceeding conſultation the reſolutions of the day before.

The Preſident obſerves, that the reſolution of Council the 17th ultimo, that members of the Board ſhould not viſit or receive meſſages from the Nabob or his ſons, was grounded on the reaſons which are given in his minute preceeding that motion.

That it is true, he had, at the deſire of Mr. Brooke, given his conſent to the reconſideration of the reſolution 29th of May, on the Nabob and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, becauſe that private property was then concerned; but as no ſuch matter was effected by the reſolution of the 17th June, and becauſe the reſcinding ſuch reſolution would only increaſe the difficulties he has found in conducting the buſineſs of the Company with the Nabob, he now declares, that he never will give his conſent to the queſtion of Sir Robert Fletcher being put. The Preſident at the ſame time obſerves to the Board, that he is certain of acting on this occaſion with perfect conſiſtency; that during the many years he has been in the ſervice, he has always known the buſineſs of the Board to originate with the Preſident, who is undoubtedly the propereſt perſon to lay before them ſuch ſubjects as may require their conſideration. That making reſolutions one day, and reconſidering and reſcending them the next, can be productive of no good conſequences to the Company's affairs; but on the contrary, ſtamp the meaſures of Government with ſuch an air of fickleneſs, as muſt in the end be highly detrimental to them.

Sir Robert Fletcher then defires, as the debate the Board are now entering into is of a moft important nature, that the Secretary be ordered to take down every thing that paffes on this fubject.

The commiffion of government to the Right Honourable Lord Pigot and the prefent Council is now read.

Mr. Dalrymple's opinion of what conftitutes an act of government.

Sir Robert Fletcher defires it may be recorded, that Mr. Dalrymple, on the commiffion of government being read, declares it to be his opinion, that no refolution of a majority of the Board is an act of government, unlefs the Governor fhall concur therein.

Mr. Dalrymple difavows the words recorded by Sir Robert Fletcher.

The words defired to be recorded by Sir Robert Fletcher, are not mine; whenever a full explanation of my fentiments is required, I fhall not be wanting to give that explanation.

Minute of Meffrs. Mackay, Jourdan Palmer, and Sir Robert Fletcher on the Prefident's refufing to put the queftion.

The Prefident refufing to put the queftion propofed by Sir Robert Fletcher, for refcinding the Prefident's fecond motion, entered in confultation the 17th of June, regarding the members of Council not vifiting the Nabob or his fons; Meffrs. Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, and Sir Robert Fletcher, think it incumbent on them to declare their opinion, that the Prefident ought not to refufe putting the queftion, and that the refolution ought to be refcinded.

Mr. Floyer's opinion.

I am of opinion, that any queftion propofed by the members of this government fhould be put, provided the doing fo fhould be the fenfe of the majority of them. The majority of the Board now exprefs their right to have the prefent queftion put, but the Prefident refufes fo to do; for which reafon I think it incumbent on me to deliver my opinion upon the queftion propofed, which is, that the refolution not to vifit, or receive vifits from the Nabob or his fons, fhould be refcinded; as there appears not to be any fuch ftanding order the records.

Mr. Dalrymple's opinion.

The present question being a motion for rescinding the resolution of the Board, by a member who gave his vote in the negative, I think cannot with any propriety be put, because it would authorize any member in the minority to obstruct the public business, by repeatedly agitating a matter, and confining the time of the Board to that point.

Mr. Brooke's opinion.

I gave my assent to our President's second motion of the 17th June, for restraining visits to the Nabob and his sons by the members of this Council, because I believed it to be well founded on the Company's orders as therein expressed; but having since examined the records, I cannot find any that extend to the meaning put on them in that motion; and that I may not appear to act inconsistently with the opinion I gave in April, 1775, I beg leave to remark, that the circumstances were then entirely different; the Nabob having an intention to place his second son in the government of the Fort and Country of Tanjore, which was thought to be prejudicial to the Company's interest; and because some of the members of Council were said to hold frequent conferences with the Nabob and his second son, and believed to support them in that measure: I am therefore of opinion, that the President, by the constitution of the service, ought not to refuse to put the question of Sir Robert Fletcher, and that the resolution should be rescinded.

Mr. Stratton's opinion.

It gives me the greatest concern, that the Right Honourable the President should refuse putting the question proposed by Sir Robert Fletcher in Council the 24th of June, as it lays me under the necessity to declare it as my opinion, that he cannot, agreeable to the constitution of the service, refuse putting this or any other question proposed by any member of this Board; and the question being before the Board, I think it incumbent on me to declare, that I think the resolution proposed should be rescinded.

Minute of the President.

The President here delares, that from the constitution of the service, he is well convinced no person but himself can agitate a question

tion at the Board; that he has ever known that right vested solely in the President, who must always be supposed the best judge of what questions are, and are not fit for the benefit of the Company's affairs; and who, if a question should be proposed, which to him should appear productive of bad consequences, has an undoubted right to prevent the question being put.

Mr. Dalrymple now delivers in the following minute.

1st. Sir Robert Fletcher having on the 24th of June given in his remarks on my minute of the 10th, it is necessary for me to take notice of some parts of these remarks.

Mr. Dalrymple in reply to Sir Robert Fletcher's remarks on his minute 10th June. Vide Sir Robert's minute A.

2d. Sir Robert Fletcher calls upon me to explain what I mean by *delusive promises* and *professions* from *Chepauk.* Has Sir Robert Fletcher forgot, that the President from time to time repeatedly declared to the Board, from what the Nabob's sons said to him, that their father would give his consent; and that his Lordship informed the Council, he was promised a letter to that effect from the Nabob himself, who at last alledged it was a mistake of Mr. Chambers, the Interpreter; but Mr. Chambers very sufficiently convinced me it was not *his mistake?*

B.

3d. Sir Robert also seems to forget, that he very lately told the Board, that during Lord Pigot's absence at Tanjore, on a report that he (Sir Robert) dabbled in Durbar politicks, he had carried Captain Rumley and Lieutenant Mackay to the Nabob, who declared in their presence, "*Sir Robert never had any conversation with him on* "*political affairs;*" How Sir Robert, speaking of the Nabob's de-"claration, that he would never give up the Country, says these words, "I am sure those correspond entirely with what the "*Nabob said to me,* when I *advised* him to follow the line of the "Company's orders; I am *ready* to bring *evidence* to the Board, that "he *invariably* held the same language with *others.*"

4th.

C. 4th. Sir Robert alſo forgets, that my minute of 10th of June, mentions *the latter end of February*, as the *time* when *precipitancy* was objected to, and therefore it muſt refer to the *Country*, and not to the *Fort*, as the Company's troops garriſon'd Tanjore the 9th of February; vide alſo Sir Robert's *own* minute F, where he ſays the preſent ſituation of the Rajah of Tanjore appears to be inconſiſtent with our orders from England by the Grenville.

D. 5th. Sir Robert obſerves, I lay great ſtreſs on the *unanimous* conſent of the Board, that it was *proper and neceſſary for the Preſident to go to Tanjore*; he ſays, " With himſelf *he* thought that meaſure neither *proper* or *neceſſary*, as will appear from a minute which he " had prepared in the beginning of March, and had ſhewn to the " Preſident and other members long before the 25th."

E. 6th. This minute I never ſaw before, and therefore I muſt have been a conjuror to have known Sir Robert had ſuch ſentiments in the beginning of March, from what paſſed in Council the 25th; when it was (as I repreſented) *unanimouſly* reſolved, That it was *proper* and *neceſſary* " for the Preſident to go to Tanjore, For the *reaſons* ſet " forth in his *minute*." It is true, Sir Robert in his diſſent to that day's conſultation, ſays, " He aſſented to this reſolution, that it " was *proper and neceſſary* for the Preſident to go to *Tanjore*, for the " reaſons ſet forth in his minute, upon the idea that more members " of the Council, would, upon a ſubſequent motion, be joined with " the Preſident, under expreſs and particular inſtructions ſigned by " the Board."

K. 7. In the minute Sir Robert Fletcher has now brought to light, he ſays, " Had the Nabob complied with our deſire of putting his " troops under our management, &c. a deputation from the *Board* " might have been *neceſſary*; but ſince the Nabob *declines to follow* " the advice *given him*, &c. I think it altogether *unneceſſary* to ſend " any *deputation to Tanjore*."

8. Sir

8. Sir Robert ſays, " Such was *his opinion*; but when the report L.
" had ſpread all over the Country, that the Preſident would certainly
" go to Tanjore, that he had actually poſted Palankeen boys on the
" road, &c. He did not *chuſe* to *thwart* his Lordſhip, in a meaſure
" which he *ſeemed reſolved upon*, and for *this reaſon only*, he agreed to
" the Preſident's motion for going." *This reaſon* is not the *one* ſet
" forth in the Preſident's *minute*, nor aſſigned by Sir Robert in his diſſent.

9. To reconcile the ſeeming inconſiſtencies here, is a taſk too much for me; however I muſt add, that by Sir Robert's minute of March, I. he propoſes no ſtipulation in behalf of the Nabob or his creditors, previous to the Rajah's reſtoration; and that the whole execution of the important orders by the Grenville, which was thought too much G. to be entruſted to the *Preſident alone*, and all the negotiations Sir Robert propoſes in that minute, were to be committed by this Board H. to the *military officer commanding there*. Such a *ſtride* in favour of the military might appear extraordinary, even in a Commander in Chief, if it was not known that this Commander in Chief, has without the knowledge of the Council, a very few days after our troops entered Tanjore, ſent his baggage thither; ſo that by the *military officer's commanding there*, to whom the power of negotiating and ſettling every thing was to be entruſted, Sir Robert meant himſelf.

10. To what Sir Robert ſays of his imagining Captain M'Kenzie's M. battalion marched to the Southward, *merely* as an *eſcort* to Lord Pigot, and that he did not obſerve the reſolution *as it ſtands*, 'till late *in May*. I can only remark, that one would have ſuppoſed a conſultation of ſo much conſequence, on meaſures which Sir Robert diſapproved, would have been conſidered with more attention.

11. No inference was ever drawn from the reſolution of 25th of March, or from that of 29th of May, that the Rajah ſhould be *enabled* to collect, *as his Revenues*, what was *private property of another*; N.

it was only asserted, that the orders to Captain M'Kenzie were conformable to the resolution of the 25th of March, and that those orders did not give any authority to seize *private property*.

12. Sir Robert adds, *As the minutes* are to go to *Bengal*, several paragraphs from the Company's records; and as Sir Robert expresses his fears that he went too far, in giving his assent to a paragraph in the public letter per Ankerwyke, I hope he will thank me for removing those fears, by the following extract of a letter from the Court of Directors, 10th of April, 1771.

O.

Par. 12th. "In our letter to you of 30th November last, Par. "16, 17, We directed that you should on no account withdraw our "troops from the fortresses which they garrison in the Carnatic. "On the maturest deliberation, we see the greatest reason not only "to enforce our said orders, but to signify to you our express dis-"approbation of the promise which you have made to the Nabob, "and to issue our positive instructions, that you do not, at any "future time, give the Nabob the least reason to expect that such "a measure can possibly take place. The Nabob himself desired "a proper number of his Sepoys might be taken into the Com-"pany's service, put under our officers, and disciplined like the rest "of our troops; that the expence thereof should be defrayed by "himself, and that if the Company would agree thereto, and give "strict orders that our officers should not interfere in the affairs of "his revenue, *he would dismiss all the troops* he kept in the *said* "*Countries*, and depend on us *alone* for preserving the tranquility of "the Carnatic."

13. "We cannot but view such a *request* of the Nabob, and a *com-*"*pliance* therewith on *our part*, to be as binding, all circumstances "considered, *as though the conditions were stipulated by a formal treaty*; "and therefore, unless the Nabob can urge with propriety (which we "hope is not the case) that our military officers have improperly inter-

"fered

" fered in the busineſs of his revenues, We cannot conceive that he has " even a right to expect us to recede from our part of the agreement."

13. I leave Sir Robert to define the limits between *force*, in any ſenſe of the *word*, which we muſt *not uſe* with the Nabob, and our *right* to interfere with a degree of *authority* to *remonſtrate*, *demand* and *require*, which he is pleaſed to eſtabliſh, as indiſputably lodged with the Company's government: I ſhall only aſk, if the Nabob pays no attention to *remonſtrances*, *demands* and *requiſitions*, what is to follow?

Sir Robert Fletcher informs the Board, that as it appears to him, that Mr. Dalrymple's minute, now delivered in, can only tend to perplex the reader, he thinks it does not merit any anſwer from him.

AT A CONSULTATION, 9th July, 1776.

PRESENT,

As before.

Tueſday, 9th July, 1776.

Sir Robert Fletcher's further obſervations upon Mr. Dalrymple's minute of yeſterday.

Sir Robert Fletcher adds to what he ſaid at the Conſultation of yeſterday, upon the reading of Mr. Dalrymple's minute, " That what Mr. " Dalrymple has aſſerted, with reſpect to the Nabob, Sir Robert " Fletcher, Captain Rumley and Lieutenant George Mackay, is not " matter of fact."

Mr. Dalrymple's minute in reply.

Upon which Mr. Dalrymple remarks, that having introduced the Name of Lieutenant Mackay, he underſtands he made in that a miſtake, as Captain Rumley's name only was mentioned. In other reſpects, he knows of no miſtake committed in that minute.

Minute

Minute delivered in by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, on Tueſday 9th July, 1776.

Minute of the majority reſpecting certain powers exerted by the Preſident.

The Preſident having, at two former Conſultations, aſſerted a right to adjourn the Council, contrary to the opinion of the majority of the Board; having, in the civil department, refuſed to put a previous queſtion (which was moved) although deſired by many of the Board, who had not had time to conſider of the propoſition laid before them; having yeſterday refuſed to put a queſtion regularly moved, for reſcinding a former reſolution of Council; and having aſſerted, that a reſolution of the majority of the Board cannot be carried into execution without his concurrence, in the latter of which he was ſupported by Mr. Dalrymple; we think it incumbent upon us to expreſs the aſtoniſhment, as well as concern, we feel at hearing ſuch doctrines from the Preſident; to declare, in the ſtrongeſt terms, that ſuch claims are incompatible with the rights of the other Members of this Government, and that many dangerous conſequences might enſue from the admiſſion of ſuch unconſtitutional, and we are ſorry to ſay, arbitrary opinions. We know that the Government is veſted in a majority of the Board, and that that majority may exiſt whether the Preſident be of it or not. Duty to our Maſters and to our country, regard to thoſe who are placed under this Government, and our own honour, require that we ſhould never give up any rights intruſted to us by the conſtitution. We know our rights, but we ſincerely hope never to be driven to the painful neceſſity of exerting them. It will on this occaſion, we hope, ſuffice, that the opinions of the majority of the Board being for reſcinding the reſolution upon the ſecond motion of the Preſident of the 17th June, the ſame is legally, though not in the uſual form, reſcinded.

Mr. Dalrymple's minute on the ſame ſubject.

Mr. Dalrymple thinks this a proper occaſion to obſerve, that from a careful peruſal of the Company's Commiſſion of Government, he finds that the Council are appointed the better to enable the Governor to manage

manage the affairs of the Company; that he therefore cannot think the Council were, either by the letter or ſpirit of that Commiſſion, intended to manage the Company's affairs without the Governor.

Letter from Colonel Stuart to the Commander in Chief, entered in Conſultation the 25th ultimo, and then ordered to lie upon the table, is now taken into conſideration.

Sir Robert Fletcher's minute recommending Colonel Stuart for the command of Tanjore.

Sir Robert Fletcher, for the reaſons aſſigned in Colonel Stuart's letter, and becauſe he wiſhes to have Colonel Stuart's ſentiments upon the ſtate of the fort and country of Tanjore, with reſpect to their defence, particularly at a time when there is intelligence of armaments coming from France, recommends that he be appointed to the command of Tanjore.

Whereupon Mr. Dalrymple addreſſes himſelf to the Board as followeth;

Mr. Dalrymple's minute againſt Colonel Stuart being appointed to Tanjore.

Colonel Stuart's Letter ſays, "That according to the beſt information "he is able to obtain reſpecting the importance of the ſeveral military "poſts or commands, &c. *It ſeems* that the command of the troops in "the fort and garriſon of Tanjore, with the dependencies in that coun- "try, where the Company have ſo lately acquired influence, is on "every account, at this criſis, the moſt important of any under this "Preſidency;" and on this he alledges, that according to the general practice or courſe of military ſervice, the moſt *reſponſible command* does, by the rank he holds, belong to him, in caſe the Commander in Chief does not occupy that poſt.

Colonel Stuart was appointed to Vellore to ſucceed Colonel Lang, who had been called down to Madras; and inſtead of proceeding forthwith to his command in the ſpirit of military ſervice, he lays in a claim

to a different command; alledging, that his rank entitles him to the *moſt reſponſible command*, and then determines for himſelf what is the moſt reſponſible command; a point on which he has no right to deliberate.

On Colonel Stuart's arrival, Colonel Lang commanded the firſt regiment, whereof one battalion was ſtationed at Vellore, from which garriſon Colonel Lang had been called down to Fort St. George on Lord Pigot's arrival, and the vacancy at Vellore was not filled up; the other battalion was ſtationed to the ſouthward, ſeven companies at Trichinopoly, and only three companies at Tanjore—Colonel Stuart made choice of this regiment.

The Commander in Chief recommended, with great propriety, that Colonel Stuart ſhould be appointed to Vellore, as the greateſt body of his regiment was there, and as that garriſon only was vacant. The Preſident at that time informed the Board, that Colonel Stuart had expreſſed a wiſh to go to the ſouthward; I very heartily concurred with the Commander in Chief, for the ſubſtantial reaſons he aſſigned, as did the other Members of the Board, none making any objection, except what the Preſident had ſaid.

Notwithſtanding this reſolution taken on ſuch good grounds, and well conſidered, Colonel Stuart thinks proper to demur, alledging Tanjore is a place of moſt *importance*.

That Tanjore is a place of the *utmoſt importance*, I readily admit; but its importance is not military, but political. It is no frontier; it is not expoſed to any attack; the garriſon is only one hundred and eighty-four Europeans, fourteen artillery included; and although there are three battalions of ſeapoys in the Tanjore dominions, two of theſe are diſperſed over the country in ſmall parties, to protect the Rajah's officers in collecting the revenues; and when the Rajah's Government is properly eſtabliſhed, the garriſon of Tanjore will not be greater than at preſent; and if ſo many of the Seapoys are kept in the country,

it will probably be thought neceſſary to keep the greater part near to he ſea coaſt inſtead of at Tanjore.

Vellore is garriſoned with 544 Europeans, including 12 Artillery, and 1900 Seapoys. Vellore is a frontier place; and if Hyder or the Marattas invade the Carnatic, it is on that ſide they are to be expected.

Sir Robert Fletcher's minute in reply thereto.

Mr. Dalrymple aſſerting in his minute, that when the Rajah's government is properly eſtabliſhed, the garriſon of Tanjore will not be greater than it is at preſent, the Commander in Chief does not know by what authority it is that Mr. Dalrymple ſo poſitively fixes what ſhall be the garriſon of Tanjore; but it is his (the Commander in Chief's opinion) that Mr. Dalrymple's judgement of the garriſon of Tanjore is extremely erroneous; and that the garriſon ought to be at leaſt one complete battalion of European Infantry, one hundred Artillery, and four battalions of Seapoys, according to the preſent eſtabliſhment of 1000 each; independent of the garriſons to be allotted for the forts dependent upon Tanjore.

Mr. Dalrymple's minute in explanation of his former one.

Mr. Dalrymple acquaints the Board, that he has no other authority for ſuppoſing what will be the garriſon of Tanjore, than from the ſize of the little fort; and is perſuaded, that unleſs the troops are kept diſtinct from the Natives, that it will be impoſſible to maintain harmony at Tanjore.

Extract of a Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore to his Vackeel.

The Preſident then lays before the Board the following extract of a letter from the Rajah of Tanjore to his Vackeel.

It is talked here that Colonel Stuart will be ſent to command in this place; you will therefore tell his Lordſhip, that Colonel Harper, who commands at preſent, is acquainted with the nature of affairs here in ſome degree, wherefore I think it will be better to con-

tinue,

tinue him in the command for the prefent, than to appoint any new man, or a ftranger to this country; you will inform this to his Lordfhip.

Whereupon the Prefident collects the fenfe of the Board, as to the appointment of Colonel Stuart to the command of Tanjore, as recommended by Sir Robert Fletcher.

Mr. Mackay for the appointment.

Minute of Meffrs. Palmer and Jourdan.

Mr. Palmer and Mr. Jourdan. Although we cannot entirely approve of officers claiming particular commands, yet the fame being refpectfully fet forth, and the Commander in Chief recommending Colonel Stuart to be put into the command of Tanjore, we acquiefce therein.

Mr. Stone's Minute.

Mr. Stone. The reafons urged by Sir Robert Fletcher for Colonel Stuart's being ordered to Vellore, when it was propofed he fhould go to the fouthward, appeared to me fo fatisfactory, that I had no doubt of the propriety of the meafure, and therefore readily concurred therein. I fee no one reafon affigned in Colonel Stuart's letter, which did not exift at the time Colonel Stuart was ordered to Vellore, and therefore cannot change my opinion. I have no objection to his being ordered to proceed to Tanjore or any other place, for the purpofe of tranfmitting to the Commander in Chief fuch information as may be neceffary with regard to the ftate of the fortifications, and difcipline of the troops; but I think it improper that the fecond in command fhould be fixed where fo fmall a part of the troops of his brigade are ftationed, and when by far the moft confiderable part of his brigade is ftationed at Vellore, a place in my opinion of much more importance from its * than Tanjore.

Mr. Floyer's Minute.

Mr. Floyer. For the reafons affigned by the Commander in Chief, in his minute now before the Board, I am of opinion that Colonel

* There feems an omiffion in copying this place; fomething being wanted to render the fenfe complete.

Colonel Stuart ſhould be ordered to proceed to the duty recommended by his Commander in Chief; and that he ſhould conſequently, as a ſenior officer to Lieut. Col. Harper, take upon him the command of the troops in the Fort and Country of Tanjore, at preſent under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, during ſuch ſervice as the Commander in Chief has pointed out to be neceſſary; I am therefore for his appointment.

Mr. Dalrymple. I am againſt the queſtion for the reaſons aſſigned in my minute, to which I muſt add, that appointing Colonel Stuart to the command of the garriſon of Tanjore, appears to me to preclude him from inſpecting the Forts of Trichinopoly, &c. which the Commander in Chief, in the preſent ſtate of his own health, declared he thought it neceſſary for Colonel Stuart to do; and I think the Rajah having requeſted that Colonel Harper be confirmed; the Board ought to pay attention to his wiſh. Mr. Dalrymple's minute.

Mr. Ruſſell. I aſſented to Colonel Stuart's being appointed to the command at Vellore, for the reaſons given by the Commander in Chief, which induced me to believe it was the moſt important command. I know of no change of circumſtances, and therefore muſt abide by that opinion; and therefore am againſt the queſtion. Mr. Ruſſell's minute.

Mr. Brooke is for the appointment of Colonel Stuart, becauſe Tanjore, a place of great importance, is in a defenceleſs ſtate; becauſe there is intelligence of the French ſending armaments this ſeaſon, and it becomes neceſſary that we have the ſentiments of the ableſt perſon laid before the Board, in order that it may be put into the beſt ſtate of defence poſſible; and more particularly, becauſe the Company have appointed him the ſecond in command, and he is recommended by Sir Robert Fletcher. Mr. Brooke's minute.

Mr. Stratton. On the *recommendation* of the Commander in Chief, (which the Company directs that we ſhould always pay due attention Mr. Stratton's opinion.

 to)

to) I am of opinion that Colonel Stuart ſhould be appointed to the command of Tanjore; more particularly as the Commander in Chief declares in the minute of this day, that the garriſon there ſhould conſiſt of 1 complete Battalion of Europeans, 100 Artillery, and 4 battalions of Seapoys; from which I muſt conclude that he purpoſes recommend-ſuch a diſpoſition of the troops, when he lays this ſubject before the Board.

Minute of the Preſident aſſigning reaſons why Col. Stuart ſhould not be appointed to Tanjore.

The Preſident having recommended to the conſideration of the Commander in Chief, that the troops at Poonamlee and Vellore ſhould be joined in one body, which the preſent ſtate of affairs ſeems to require; the great difficulty in ſupplying proviſions for the troops in this part of the country, and the Commander in Chief's health and other occupations, which he thinks his indiſpenſible duty, confining him to Madras, I am of opinion that Colonel Stuart ſhould continue in the command of Vellore, where the greateſt part of his own regiment now is; and if ſuch an arrangement as above-mentioned ſhould take place, a principal part of our troops will be immediately under his eye.

I join in wiſhes with the Commander in Chief to have Col. Stuart's ſentiments upon the ſtate of the fort and the country of Tanjore, with reſpect to their defence, as well as upon that of Trichinopoly, &c. I before expreſſed my deſire to have the ſentiments of the Commander in Chief upon theſe ſubjects, had his health enabled him to have made ſuch a journey; but I entirely diſapprove of the continuance of Col. Stuart to the ſouthward; where, after the above ſervices are executed, he can be of no ſervice to the Company. I cannot therefore give my conſent to his appointment to the command of Tanjore, and the removal of Col. Harper, who has behaved well and ſatisfactory both to the Rajah and myſelf.

Carried for the appointment.

Carried for the appointment of Col. Stuart, ſeven to four.

4 Mr.

Mr. Dalrymple in his minute entered in consultation the 1st July, having said, "*Concerning the accounts, I shall not pretend to decide, whether the information Lord Pigot received in the Tanjore country, or the understanding of the majority, are most to be relied on.*"

Minute of the majority respecting the accounts in the Tanjore country.

In order to clear up this matter, Messrs. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who gave in the minute on which Mr. Dalrymple remarks, think it necessary, that the Secretary be ordered to write to Mr. Benfield, and Mr. De Souza, to desire them to give the Board all the information they can respecting the accounts alluded to; and whether they believe those accounts were carried away, or left in the country, when the Rajah got possession of it.

Mr. Dalrymple remarks to the Board, that, "By the understanding of the Majority, he meant *what the majority understand.*"

Mr. Dalrymple's explanation of an expression used by him.

Ordered, That the Secretary do write accordingly to Messrs. Benfield and De Souza, and request them to give the Board every information that may come to their knowledge relative to the accounts of the Tanjore country, on the restoration of the Rajah.

Mr. Benfield and De Souza be applied to respecting the Tanjore accounts.

10. Conformable to the minutes of consultation held yesterday, the following letter is now sent to Mr. Paul Benfield.

To Mr. Paul Benfield.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the President and Council, to request you will without loss of time give them every information that may have come to your knowledge, relative to the accounts of the Tanjore country on the restoration of the Rajah.

Letter to Mr. Benfield for information regarding the accounts in the Tanjore country.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Fort St. George,
10th July, 1776.

And

And the ſame is alſo addreſſed to Mr. Antonio de Souza.

To Mr. Antonio De Souza.

SIR,

Letter to Mr. De Souza or information regarding the accounts in the Tanjore country.

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Preſident and Council, to requeſt you will without loſs of time give them every information that may have come to your knowledge relative to the accounts of the Tanjore country on the reſtoration of the Rajah.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George,
10th July, 1776.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

AT A CONSULTATION, 12th July, 1776.

PRESENT,

Friday, 12th July, 1776.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Governor, Preſident.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	— —
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Mr. Ruſſell indiſpoſed.

Mr. Floyer delivers in the following minute.

Minute of Mr. Floyer, quoting an occurrence in the Council at Bengal, when the Preſident was of the minority.

Mr. Dalrymple, in reply to the minute delivered and ſigned by ſeven Members of the Council, which was read at the laſt conſultation, has ſaid, that the words therein inſerted were not thoſe he made uſe of at the Board.

Whether

Whether they were ſo, verbatim, I think it unneceſſary for me to contend; but I am poſitive that the purport of his declared opinion was, that no proceeding of the Board can be deemed an act of this government, unleſs it be firſt approved by the Governour; a doctrine ſubverſive of the conſtitution of our country, and that delegated to the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company by the Royal Charter, has made too deep an impreſſion on my mind for me not to retain the ſubſtance, though perhaps not *all* the *very* words expreſſed by that Member.

To me it appears the more extraordinary that Mr. Dalrymple ſhould perſiſt in ſuch opinion, after ſo great a majority of the Board have warned him, that many inconveniences may reſult therefrom to the Company's affairs. After I had ſo very fully explained a circumſtance to the Board, at our meeting of the ——— inſtant, which was thought pertinent to the matter then in debate, it was this——When I was a Member of the Council at Calcutta, there aroſe debates in the Council, of which Mr. Cartier was Preſident, concerning the powers veſted in the ſelect Committee, independent of thoſe of the Council, and the iſſue of thoſe debates was, that the Council, by a majority of its Members, maintained their right of government in thoſe matters, which had heretofore been under the direction of the Select Committee, and iſſued their orders in conſequence, which were duly obeyed as acts of the government. The Governor (Mr. Cartier) and the two ſenior Members at the Preſidency, were throughout all the debates in the minority, and diſſented to the meaſures thus taken by the majority, which conſiſted of the other five Members of the Council; and the Governor would not ſign the letter from the Board which accompanied their proceedings to the Honourable the Court of Directors, who, by their returning advices, approved and confirmed the meaſures of the majority of their Council, and thought proper to deprive Mr. Cartier of the government. This circumſtance, to the beſt of my recollection, happened in June, July, and Auguſt 1771, for the truth of which, I appeal to Mr. Ruſſell, who, as well as myſelf, was a Member in that minority.

4 Q Hence

Hence I ſhould preſume it is evident, that the Honourable the Court of Directors could not poſſibly entertain an idea, that the aſſent of their Preſident was otherwiſe material to ſtamp an an act of Government, become ſo by the reſolutions of a majority of their Council, than as his ſingle vote in general, and his caſting vote in a particular caſe, where the voices of the members are equal in number, could affect the operations of the Council.

If therefore thoſe were not the words expreſſed by Mr. Dalrymple, he will, I ſuppoſe, explain himſelf to the Board.

Minute of the minority, containing remarks on Mr. Dalrymple's minute reſpecting the Preſident's powers; his converſation with Colonel Harper, and apprehenſions from the Marattas.

Although Mr. Dalrymple has been pleaſed, on the eve of tranſmitting copies of our proceedings to Bengal, to compile a volume of general ſtrictures on our diſſents and minutes, it would be as unbecoming as it is unneceſſary in us, to deſcend into a replication to arguments that we think ſtand ſelf-confuted, and appear to be but mere quibbles upon words and ſentences; our time does not permit ſuch altercations.

Mr. Dalrymple's notion of the Preſident's powers, his deference to the orders of the time of Queen Anne, and his arguments againſt Tunkas*, we leave to the conſideration which they may be thought to merit from our ſuperiors, but we cannot paſs over two very extraordinary circumſtances which he hath choſen to enter upon the records; the firſt is, the converſation he relates to have paſſed between himſelf and Lieut. Col. Harper at Tanjore; the other is a kind of political threat reſpecting the Marattas, which he throws out in favour of the Rajah againſt this Government.

Mr. Dalrymple ſays expreſsly, that Colonel Harper told him the Rajah had ſent for him on a particular occaſion, and told him that he feared *the Nabob had bought off the adminiſtration here.* How Mr. Dalrymple ſhould wantonly, and upon the hearſay of Colonel Harper, chuſe

* Orders or Aſſignments.

chuse to record a converfation reflecting fuch glaring difhonour on this Government, he is beft able to explain.

The fecond circumftance, which refpects the Marattas, is a political opinion, and as fuch merits the confideration of the Governor-General and Council, who have lately made a treaty with that power. If the Marattas are the tribunal to which the Rajah is to appeal for juftice, when he thinks himfelf aggrieved by the acts or opinions of the Board, the Company's orders have not been carried into execution in the manner they intended, or the Board expected; for we underftood, that an arrangement would be made with the Rajah effectually to preclude either Marattas, Dutch, or French from interfering in his affairs; and that he was to have no connection with any other power but the Company, without their confent.

Mr. Dalrymple acquaints the Board, that he will give in fome remarks on the aforegoing minute.

The following draught of a letter to the Governor General and Council, to accompany the proceedings relative to Tanjore, is now read.

To the Honourable Warren Haftings, Efq; Governor General, &c. Council of Fort William in Bengal.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Letter to the Governor General and Council accompanying the proceedings relative to Tanjore.

WE had the honour of addreffing you the 13th ultimo, duplicate whereof comes enclofed, together with triplicate of our letter the 29th March.

In compliance with the defire contained in your letter of the 15th May, we now tranfmit you, by the Swallow floop of war, a copy of all our proceedings relative to Tanjore; and as the fubject will be

better underſtood by a reference to ſuch matters as we had before us for our guidance, we ſend, as an appendix to the proceedings, a copy of the treaty concluded in 1762 between Pretapa Sing, the late Rajah of Tanjore, and the Nabob, which treaty you will perceive to be guaranteed by the Engliſh; as well as extracts of the Company's general and ſeparate letters 12th April, 1775, and copies of all papers and letters to and from the Nabob as have not been entered in Conſultation: theſe, with our proceedings, will, we flatter ourſelves, give your Honour, &c. the information you require.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient

And moſt humble Servants,

Fort St. George,
13th July, 1776.

PIGOT, &c. Council.

Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, deſire that the following paragraphs may be added to the aforegoing letter; but the Preſident objecting thereto, they ſtand only in this place.

Additional paragraphs to the letter to Bengal propoſed by the majority.

Your Honour, &c. will obſerve a copy of a letter which our Preſident drew out as an addreſs from the Board to the Court of Directors, and which being in great part diſapproved by a majority, the Preſident has tranſmitted in his own name for the information of the Company.

In the third paragraph of that letter you will pleaſe alſo to obſerve that the Preſident has declared, that the whole of his conduct whilſt at Tanjore has been diſapproved by a majority of the Council: you will ſee from the whole of the proceedings that a difference of opinion has prevailed among us, not only regarding the Preſident's conduct at Tanjore,

Tanjore, but on other ſubjects which concern the moſt eſſential intereſts of the Company; and that the moſt ſerious difficulties have ariſen, even upon the powers claimed by the majority of the Board, and thoſe claimed by the Preſident in his own perſon.

Read the following letters from Mr. Benfield and Mr. De Souza.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Letter from Mr. Benfield, containing information reſpecting the accounts in the Tanjore country.

IN anſwer to the letter I have received from your Secretary of the 10th inſtant, I take leave to addreſs you the following:

By the Circar are kept in the Tanjore provinces, firſt, the Sumperdee accounts in Malabar on Cadjan; thoſe are taken by Sumperdee officers reſiding in the villages or mangans; thoſe accounts are duplicates or counterparts of the Naut Canuck, or the accounts of the public officers of the villages and mangans; the Sumperdee officers of the villages and mangans tranſmit their accounts to their ſuperior Sumperdees, reſiding at the Cutcherries of the Amuldars and Aumeens in the different Subahs, who tranſmit their ſtatements to the Head Sumperdee at the General Cutcherry at Cumbaconum. Secondly, the Moojumdar accounts in Maratta, on paper: theſe are taken by Moojundar officers reſiding at the Cutcherry of the Amuldars and Aumeens in the different Subahs from the Sumperdee accounts there; thoſe accounts are tranſmitted, in the ſame manner as the Sumperdee accounts, to the Head Moojundar at the General Cutcherry at Combaconum. Thirdly, the Duffer accounts at the General Cutcherry at Combaconum, in Perſian and Maratta. Thoſe are the general ſtatements of receipts, diſburſements, and all tranſactions for the whole province, under the chief manager of the country.

On the part of the people are kept by public officers, appointed by the inhabitants in every village and mangan, the accounts called Naut Canuck, in Malabar on Cadjan; those are originals of the Sumperdee accounts. They further contain the accounts of the privileges, &c. of every individual inhabitant, and all transactions in the villages and mangans. The Naut Canuck are always considered as the records of the country, and are preserved as such; they are referred to both by the Circar and the people of the country, when either hath occasion.

When the Dobbeer moved a short time before the Rajah was restored, he took with him the accounts belonging to his Cutcherry; the Aumeens of the different Subahs moved part of the accounts of their respective Cutcherries; the Sumperdee officers continued with their accounts at the villages and mangans, and the Naut Canuck remain undisturbed in their places as usual.

This information I am able to give your Lordship, &c. from my own knowledge, and from my people who resided in every part of the country, as I had revenues to collect throughout the province. I am with respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servant,

Madras,
12th July, 1776.

PAUL BENFIELD.

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President, &c. Council.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Letter from Mr. de Souza on the same subject.

ON the 7th April last I arrived at Sheally, in Tanjore country, a Subah mortgaged to me by his Highness the Nabob Valajah, for money he borrowed of me.

The

The 8th of the ſame month I deſired the Subadar of Sheally, by name Veneapayen, to get all my accounts ſettled. He told me that all the Maratta and Perſian accounts were carried to Warrior Pollam and Alianoor, where Dobbeer, the manager of his Highneſs, was. On this I aſked him for the Malabar accounts of that Cutcherry. He told me he had them; but being doubtful of his Malabar account, I ordered him to call the Natawar of the Sheally Subah, and deſired them to bring their account, which is always kept by Nat Camam *(id eſt)* their public Clerk; which accounts in Malabar of each diſtrict and village of that Subah they brought to me; and from the 8th till the 10th of the ſame month, being preſent Natawars, Nat Camam, Subadar, and officers of the Cutcherry, I did examine my accounts with theirs, and found very right and exact till that time.

On the 11th I went to Pondanelore, Jerpandal, and Sholvaram, diſtricts of the Subah of Combaconum.

The 12th and 13th, at all theſe places I found the accounts of the Natawars of thoſe places in the ſame regular manner kept. I did examine their accounts with thoſe kept by my agents in thoſe diſtricts of Combaconum, being alſo mortgaged to me.

On the 14th I went to Combaconum, and on the 15th I ſent my agents to the great Cutcherry of Combaconum, to ſettle finally the ſaid accounts with Vintcatarey, the Subadar there, who at that time acted for the Rajah, and had before then acted for the Nabob; he promiſed me to go, and I returned back to Sheally on the 16th, and got all my accounts finally ſettled there, and adjuſted with thoſe Malabar accounts of that Cutcherry, and of the Natawars as aforeſaid, and an abſtract of the whole I gave to Verapule then new Subadar for the Rajah.

I returned again to Combaconum, in order to get thoſe accounts of the aforeſaid three diſtricts ſettled; but the Subadar there did put me off

off from the 18th to 22d April. Not being able to lose more time, I contented myself with what I had done, having before examined and settled those very accounts with those of the Natawars; which accounts in the Tanjore country are held as public accounts kept in archive for all times, and are indisputable, which I found very regularly kept at those places.

This is all I can inform regarding the accounts of the Tanjore country, few days before, at, and after the restoration of the Rajah.

This addrefs I make to you in consequence of the letter I received the 10th instant from the Secretary Mr. Sulivan, by your order. I am with respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

Fort St. George,
12th July, 1776.

ANTONIO DE SOUZA.

Read the following letter from the Nabob:

Translate of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated the 6th of July; received 8th ditto, 1776.

Letter from the Nabob, being a continuation of his reply to the Prefident's letter of the 13th May, respecting evil counsellors.

IN the letter I did myself the pleasure to write to you on the 22d of May last, I acknowledged the receipt of yours to me of the 13th of that month, and informed you that it was my intention to reply to it afterwards more fully, which I now proceed to do accordingly.

You write, " That on reading over the proceedings of Mr. Stratton " and the other Gentlemen of the Council, you had found two letters

5 " from

" from me addressed to Mr. Stratton, which you then meant to reply
" to. That it did not surprize you to hear that my mind was full of
" trouble and uneasiness, as bad counsellors had often distracted minds
" as great as mine!"

Your writing of my being in trouble and uneasiness, I regard as a mark of your justice; but your speaking of my having bad counsellors is a matter of surprize to me, in a transaction that is contrary to the interests, the credit, and the honour of myself and of the Company. I have not given the least resistance, in any mode whatever, to the execution of the Company's orders, but have contented myself with setting forth my distresses to my friends, in the hopes of obtaining redress. If such proceeding is to be imputed to the suggestions of evil counsellors, I am without resource.

From the time of your arrival in the government of Madras, I have embraced one line, which I have been stedfast to, and which has been to bear every thing without resistance, in the hope, that by stating my rights, and the situation I am in, I may hereafter be enabled to obtain justice from my good friends the Company and the English Nation. If I have all along pursued such a line, it is surprizing that you should say I have bad counsellors about me.

You write that my son, Ameer Ul Omrah, perhaps forgot to inform me, that Naroo Pundit, the Dobbeer, told him, after Tanjore was taken, he would not desert his master in his misfortunes; and that he refused to act until my son carried him to the Rajah, and desired the Rajah to lay his commands upon him. You ask, "Was it noble!
" was it generous! was it honourable! was it just to imprison this venerable old man, between 70 and 80 years of age? this public officer of the Tanjore revenue, this officer of the public, and not my
" servant."

In reply hereto, I muſt inform you, that Tuljaujee, during his own adminiſtration, diſmiſſed and impriſoned all his father's ſervants. At the time of the reduction of Tanjore the Dobbeer was under confinement, and Tuljaujee had before plundered his houſe. My ſon, Omeer Ul Omrah, releaſed him by my orders, and he entered voluntarily into my ſervice, as appears by the written declaration under oath which he then gave me; many of his letters are now in my poſſeſſion; depending on theſe, I employed him in the affairs of that country.

During the government of Tuljaujee and his father Purtaub Sing, the Dobbeer had the charge of the Secretary's office only; and it is plain by the word Dobbeer, by which this perſon is celebrated, that the office is that of Secretary. It was I who appointed him to the management of affairs there.

My treatment of the Dobbeer, which was publicly known, having been ſuch as I have ſtated it, I am at a loſs to underſtand how your Lordſhip could have learnt that I impriſoned him. The fact is, that you carried him away like a priſoner by force from Alianoor, my country. Was this noble! was this generous! was this honourable! was this juſt? You did not merely execute the Company's orders in the affairs of Tanjore, but from abundance of ill humour did it with ſo little regard to forms, that I have been diſcredited and diſhonoured, the arrangement of the affairs of my government has been violated, and neither my own people nor others, far or near, have any dependance on me.

You write, "You had learnt from the Dobbeer, that during the three "years I was in poſſeſſion of the Tanjore country, I had received "from it forty Lacks of Pagodas, which you ſay will be a great ſatiſ-"faction to your employers, as they will be confident that the expen-"ſes I have been at cannot have amounted to near that ſum."

With

With respect to my having received forty Lacks of Pagodas from the Tanjore country since the reduction of it, this is an assertion of the Dobbeer's; and with respect to my expenses not amounting to near that sum, this is your Lordship's estimate. Is your declaration, founded on the assertion of the Dobbeer, a sufficient proof on these points?

Tuljaujee, when under my commands, told me a number of things which I do not think proper to repeat. I will suppose for the present, that the Dobbeer's declaration made in Tanjore before Tuljaujee and you, under the idea that such declaration would be a pleasure to you, was founded in reality; yet the sum he mentions, had I received it, would not have been equal to the half of my expenses, by the charges merely of the two Tanjore expeditions, the prize-money on both occasions, the discharging of Tuljaujee's debts to the Dutch and others, the twice taking into my service a large force of horse, Seapoys, Peons, and Colleries; the payment of a considerable sum to the Marattas, to preserve the peace of the Carnatic; the laying in stocks of rice and grain, sheep, and cattle, monthly hire of bullocks, besides a number of other expenses that you have never thought of, the losses I have sustained have been very considerable.

I have a full reliance on the equity of your Masters, and am persuaded that instead of being pleased they will be uneasy at hearing of these affairs; that they will not approve of my being made to sustain such heavy losses, and that they will place no dependance on accounts which by violence and oppression, and keeping my clerks and managers under confinement, you have caused them to make out according to your own dictates.

The English are a just and equitable people. When they set themselves to discriminate between truth and falsehood, whether in accounts or other transactions, they do not proceed by force of arms, they do not use violence with people, to make them prepare and give accounts

according to their own dictates, or to make them attend to give evidence.

You write," You learnt from the Dobber, that the revenue of Tanjore " for this year amounted only to twelve Lacks of Pagodas ; that there " remained only three Lacks to be collected from the Rajah ; that my " receipts, orders, and usual charges amounted to full nine lacks ; and " that this was a great satisfaction to you, as you trusted it would ena- " ble me to pay the arrears due to my troops."

By means of repairing watercourses and banks of tanks, making advances to the farmers, and giving them plenty of grain for sowing, services executed by my son Omeer Ul Omrah, I had rendered the country of Tanjore so flourishing in inhabitants and cultivation, that it was never known to be in so prosperous a state. The Dobbeer wrote me word that the crops were much greater this year than they were the last; and I hoped accordingly to have collected a larger sum this year than I did the last. The whole of the produce was assigned over to my creditors and troops.

What you write me, founded on the declaration of the Dobbeer, that the produce of the country was twelve Lacks of Pagodas, that nine Lacks have been disbursed in the usual charges, and that three Lacks remained for Tuljaujee to receive, is matter of great surprize to me; in all events the produce, whatever it may have been, has neither been received by my creditors nor troops, nor into my treasury ; it is in your power to learn how it has been disposed of.

The Dobbeer's saying that there were three Lacks of Pagodas to receive, proceeded from his kindness. If he had said there was not a grain of paddy remaining in that country, who was there to contradict him ? Supposing even that the collections this year had been equal to what

what you ſay there were, I do not know of more than about three Lacks of Pagodas having been expended on my account; whatever remains muſt be in the country. You write, "The good purpoſes the meaſure "has anſwered will, you hope, appear to me a ſufficient reaſon for "your eſcorting the Dobbeer to Tanjore."

You aſk, "Shall the gates of Alianoor, or any other gates in the "Payen-Ghaut, be ſhut againſt the troops of the Company, who have "fought for me near thirty years, when they aſk admittance by your "authority? You ſay you hope not; that this would be an improper "return to the man who put me in poſſeſſion of them, upon my ſo- "lemn aſſurances that there was no diſtinction between me and the "Company, and that I wiſhed it only for the appearance it would have "with the Country Powers."

The whole country, and all the forts belonging to me, are always open for the eaſe and convenience of my friends, and no one ever meets with any hindrance. According to the common principles of equity eſtabliſhed throughout the world, there cannot be a greater diſhonour or violation of the ties of amity, than for the troops under your command to enter by force and violence into my country, into the country of a ſincere friend to the Company, who has at all times been united with them; whoſe dignity, honour, and government through their kindneſs, under the ſanction of firm and unſhaken engagements, are entitled to their protection; who has been graciouſly admitted into an alliance with your King, and who has received from him the ſtrongeſt aſſurances, both on the ground of the guarantee of the treaty of Paris, and by letter of his protection againſt all injuſtice; who is a firm friend of the whole Engliſh Nation, a people of known equity; I ſay, there cannot be a greater violation of the ties of amity, than for the troops under your command ſo to enter my country, and to carry off my ſervants as priſoners are conducted under a guard by an enemy.

By ſuch an act of violence, which is repugnant to the friendſhip, good faith, and honour of the Company, who are my friends and the protectors of my dignity and authority in the rights of my government over my own country, which is repugnant to the guarantee of the treaty of Paris, eſtabliſhed in my behalf, and further, to the rights of my alliance with the King of Great-Britain. By ſuch an act, not only the rights of my government and authority, and the peace and ſecurity of my country are violated, but the honour of the whole Engliſh nation is wounded. With reſpect to the Company's troops fighting for me near thirty years, this was a favour for which I ever have been, now am, and ever ſhall be, as long as I live, obliged to them; and as long as any of my poſterity remain, they will ever continue to be inſpired with the ſame ſentiments of gratitude. I ſwear by my honour, in the moſt ſolemn manner, that it would be difficult for the whole world, either by means of inveiglement, or unjuſt treatment, to make me ſwerve from my friendſhip and affection for the Company and Engliſh nation; but according to the principles of equity, which are common to all ſects, and to all nations, their friendſhip, and the benefits they have conferred, cannot imply a right to commit injuſtice.

I am fully convinced that the Company themſelves will not be pleaſed with this pretenſion, and that my having written there was no difference or diſtinction between me and them, will not be deemed a ſufficient ground for ſeizing my country and property, and for committing injuſtice. The Company, who are my good friends, are juſt and equitable, and I depend on their juſtice, and on that of the gentlemen of Europe.

You write, that my letter of the 27th, was a matter of the utmoſt aſtoniſhment to you; that in the public notice given when the country of Tanjore was reſtored to the Rajah, it was expreſsly ſaid, " What he " poſſeſſed at the concluſion of the treaty I made with him in 1762;" that no other was meant to be given to him, and that the Rajah never expreſſed a wiſh to have more than what the Company thought his right. When Tuljaujee had obtained ſuch a friend as you to conduct his affairs

5 for

for him, there was no occaſion for him to declare his wiſhes.—When you, without paying the leaſt attention to any of my rights, ſet up Tuljajee's declaration as a ſufficient ground and authority for ſeizing my country, and proceeded to do it accordingly, I did not make any oppoſition from regard to the ſanction of the Company's name; but I hope for juſtice from the Gentlemen of Europe.

You write, "That Nazeeb Cawn had received from you every mark "of reſpect when he left Tanjore, and that every officer and ſervant of "mine you had ſeen, had merited, and had received all the civility you "could poſſibly pay to them." Nazeeb Cawn, it is true, in a letter he wrote me, did expreſs his thanks for your civilities, as did alſo others of my ſervants who met you on the road; but the agreement to keep Nazeeb Khan in the fort of Tanjore with a thouſand men from among my troops was not executed; and afterwards, when you had given orders for ſeizing that country, your people, in conjunction with Tuljaujee's, behaved in ſuch a manner to my principal officers and ſervants, ſome of whom, from father to ſon, had been for years in the ſervice of my family, and all of whom were gentlememen, and perſons of diſtinction, that it was impoſſible for them to have gone through greater diſgrace, diſhonour or ignominy. Some of my ſervants are even to this day in confinement under the authority of Tuljaujee and the Company's people, and receive their daily allowance from them. From the beginning of my friendſhip with the Company, to the hour in which I am now writing, never did the idea of ſuch diſgraces enter into my mind. I was aſſured from the goodneſs of the King of Great Britain, of the Company, and the Engliſh nation, that my honour and dignity would increaſe daily; but upon this occaſion the reverſe has happened, and I look forward to the juſtice and equity of the Engliſh nation, the fame of whoſe virtue is ſpread throughout the globe.

You write that you could ſay more in reply to my letter, but ſhall conclude with giving me the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of your ſteady attachment

to

to my interest, and of the wish you have that I would put it in your power to render me every service you are capable of, whether you write to me fully or briefly. In either case I wrote to you of my firm and unshaken purpose to preserve that friendship, which from the bottom of my heart I entertain for the Company; whilst I live I shall ever acknowledge the great obligations I owe them, and my son and son's sons will never forget them. Notwithstanding the affair of Tanjore has been the means of such great disgrace and dishonour to me, I have not, even in that, made any kind of opposition to the Company's people; and have not, in any mode whatever, obstructed the execution of their orders; but instead of opposing their orders, I have chosen to refer this affair to the justice of the gentlemen in Europe.

The letter I am now writing, as well as my other letters, and the whole tenor of my actions, if considered attentively, will be found to be full of my friendship for the Company, and of acknowledgments for their numerous favours. I will now conclude with telling you, that if you will give proofs of your sincere attachment to my interests, which are the same with those of the Company, and will attend to the carrying on of my affairs, I shall be made exceedingly happy by such manifestation of your friendship.

What can I say more?

Minute thereon.

The Nabob complaining in the aforegoing letter, that some of his people are kept in confinement at Tanjore, the President proposes that a letter be wrote to the Nabob, to request he will inform the Board who they are, that we may apply to the Rajah to procure their releasment, if unjustly kept in that situation: and further, that the Nabob be again informed of the resolution of the Board, 14th June, determining his right to the Government share of the crops in the Tanjore country, and requested to favour the President with an answer to his letter of the 25th ultimo.

AT

AT A CONSULTATION, 30th July 1776, Prefent as before,

The Right Honourable the Prefident acquaints the Board, that he addreffed the following letter to the Nabob on the 23d inftant, conformably to the refolutions of Council, entered in Country Correfpondence, No. 53.

To the Nabob.

May it pleafe you Highnefs,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Highnefs's letters of the 6th and 16th inftant; your Highnefs may reft perfectly fatisfied that the Court of Directors will ever do that which is juft. I will promife you more, that nothing fhall be wanting on my part to fee that their fervants here purfue the fame line of conduct whilft I prefide over them. It is unneceffary therefore for your Highnefs to look further.

Your Highnefs is pleafed to fay, that fome of your fervants are in confinement under the authority of the Rajah and the Company's people, even to this day. Permit me to afk the names of thofe fervants, and of the places where they are confined, that I may make the neceffary enquiries, and write to the Rajah to have them releafed, if unjuftly kept in fuch confinement.

With refpect to the Government fhare of the laft year's crop in the Tanjore country, I take leave to remind to your Highnefs, that in my letter of 25th June, I expreffed a defire to learn from your Highnefs fuch information as you might deem neceffary to give me on the occafion. I at the fame time had the honour to mention Hanamantagoody, as being in poffeffion of the Rajah at the conclufion of the treaty your Highnefs was pleafed to enter into with him in 1762; and as I expect a fhip of the Company's daily, which is bound to England, it wil be highly fatisfactory to my Employers to be informed,

 that

that the Rajah has been put in full poſſeſſion of Hanamantagoody and Arnee by your Highneſs, and that he has been reſtored, conformably to their commands, to the full and entire poſſeſſion of his country as he held it in 1762.

As the term for which the Company's Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts, are let to your Highneſs is now almoſt expired, I am to requeſt that your Highneſs will inform me, whether you deſire to rent them for one year longer? The Company's orders are, that it ſhall be an expreſs condition in ſuch agreement, that the Company's ſervants ſhall, at all times, have a free inſpection, to ſee that the inhabitants be ſecured in all their juſt rights. It is expected that the tanks and watercourſes, &c. are kept in good repair, and the money collected for ſuch public purpoſes duly applied. That trees be not deſtroyed or damaged, and that the ſheep and cattle of the inhabitants ſhall not be taken from them on any pretence.

It has been determined, that the Company's weavers ſhall not pay any taxes, or be liable to perſonal ſervice. Your Highneſs will be pleaſed to acquaint me what deduction ſhould be made on that account.

I have the honour to be

Your Highneſs's

Moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant,

Fort George,
23d July, 1776.

PIGOT.

Sir Robert Fletcher lays before the Board the following draught of inſtructions, which he is of opinion ſhoud be given to Colonel Stuart.

SIR,

S I R,

Having appointed you to the command of the fort and garriſon of Tanjore, and the trrops ſtationed in that country, you will repair thither with all convenient expedition.

You are on no account to interfere with the affairs of the Rajah's Government; but whatever may be requiſite for the troops, and cannot be purchaſed in the Bazars at a reaſonable rate, you will apply for to the Rajah, who will order you to be furniſhed with ſuch neceſſaries.

You will be pleaſed, as ſoon as you conveniently can, to tranſmit to us the ſtate of the fort of Tanjore, with an account of the ſtores which you judge neceſſary to have in that fort.

You are on no account to march any of the troops out of the Tanjore country without orders from hence; but if robbers come into that country to plunder and carry away the cattle, you will direct the Seapoys under your command to repel them by force.

Ordered to lie on the table for further conſideration. In the mean time it is reſolved, that the appointment of Colonel Stuart to the command of Tanjore be given out in general orders; and that Colonel Stuart be directed to hold himſelf in readineſs to proceed thither.

Auguſt 1ſt. The following letter was this day wrote to Colonel James Stuart, conformably to the minutes of laſt Conſultation.

To

To Colonel James Stuart.

SIR,

The Right Honourable the Prefident and Council having thought proper to appoint you to the command of the fort and garrifon of Tanjore, it is their pleafure that you hold yourfelf in readinefs to proceed thither.

I am, Sir,

Your moft obedient fervant,

Fort St. George,
Auguft 1, 1776. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Monday, 19th Auguft.

AT A CONSULTATION, 19th Auguft 1776. Prefent as before.

Sir Robert Fletcher indifpofed.

Read a letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, as entered in Country Correfpondence, No. — advifing of the Cavery having broke down its banks, and deftroyed the grain which was fown in different parts of his country; and as it is thereby become neceffary to make frefh advances of money to the farmers for the purchafe of feed, and for the pay of the hufbandmen, requefting that the Company would indulge him with the loan of one lack of Pagodas; alfo defiring that the Nabob may be applied to for permiffion for his people to carry earth from Kelcour, a place in the Nabob's country, for the purpofe of repairing the banks of the Cavery.

Agreed, that an account of particulars of the grain received by the Company may be made out as foon as poffible, and that he be paid the value thereof accordingly. The Nabob has already been addreffed on the fubject of the latter part of the Rajah's letter, and requefting that fuch affiftance may be given the Rajah's people, he paying for the fame

ſame, as ſhould be neceſſary for repairing the banks of the Cavery, which the Board make no doubt he will comply with.

The Right Honourable the Preſident lays before the Board draught of a part of a letter that he propoſes ſhould be written to the Court of Directors by the Grenville.

Ordered to lie upon the table for further conſideration.

Ordered, That the following extract of the 39th Paragraph of the Company's letter per Royal Henry, 25th November, 1775, be ſent to the Nabob:

"We direct you to repreſent to his Highneſs our wiſhes, that he
" would tranſmit every repreſentation he may have occaſion to ſend to
" this country through the ancient channel of our Governor and
" Council."

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter, which he this morning received from Sir Robert Fletcher, encloſing a draught of inſtructions for Colonel Stuart.

S I R,

I ENCLOSE to you a paper of inſtructions, which I prefer to thoſe I ſome time ago delivered to the Board for Colonel Stuart; I requeſt you would lay them before the Board for their conſideration.

Choultry Plain,
Auguſt 18th, 1776.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient ſervant,
ROB^T FLETCHER.

Mr. Sulivan,
Secretary.

The Prefident remarks to the Board, that he has already repeated to them his earneft wifh that they would permit Mr. Ruffell to proceed to Tanjore, if it were even for a few days. He is fo fully convinced of the neceffity of this meafure, the Rajah and country being in the greateft diftrefs, as appears from the letter this day read from him, that he, the Prefident, muft in the ftrongeft terms repeat his former defire, that Mr. Ruffell may have their permiffion to go in the manner he before recommended to them. This he is in hopes the Board will acquiefce in, and the more fo, as he, the Prefident, had at a former confultation declared he never would give his confent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, until the Board fhould have likewife refolved, that Mr. Ruffell proceed thither according to his appointment.

The fenfe of the Board is then taken upon the Prefident's minute.

Mr. Mackay. I am againft Mr. Ruffell's proceeding to Tanjore.

Mr. Jourdan. I think it irregular to move this matter in this department, as the papers which relate to it are in the other department; but to avoid delay, I anfwer, as Mr. Ruffell has been ordered by the Company upon the circuit, and the 31ft has been fixed for the departure of Meffrs. Ruffell and Dalrymple, I think Mr. Ruffell cannot be permitted to go to Tanjore.

Mr. Palmer fubfcribes to Mr. Jourdan's opinion.

Mr. Stone. I am for Mr. Ruffell's proceeding to Tanjore.

Mr. Floyer. I cannot concur in the Prefident's requeft for the reafons affigned by Mr. Jourdan, and therefore am againft Mr. Ruffell's proceeding to Tanjore.

Mr. Dalrymple. I am for Mr. Ruffell's proceeding to Tanjore.

Mr. Ruffell. I am for proceeding to Tanjore.

Mr.

Mr. Brooke. I am againſt Mr. Ruſſell's proceeding to Tanjore for the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Stratton. I am againſt Mr. Ruſſell's proceeding to Tanjore.

The Preſident. I am for Mr. Ruſſell's proceeding to Tanjore.

Carried againſt Mr. Ruſſell's proceeding to Tanjore, ſix to four.

The draught of inſtructions ſent in by the Commander in Chief for Colonel Stuart is then read.

The Preſident having repeatedly recommended to the Board the propriety, not to ſay neceſſity, of Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, now declares, that he will never give his ſanction to any inſtructions to Colonel Stuart until that meaſure is adopted.

Mr. Floyer then deſires the queſtion may be put to the Board, to take into conſideration the above draught of inſtructions to Colonel Stuart;

Whereupon the Preſident declares, for the reaſons he has before aſſigned, that he will not put the queſtion at this time.

The Right Honourable the Preſident having refuſed to put the queſtion propoſed by Mr. Floyer, and it being a matter of the greateſt conſequence to be determined, whether the Preſident has a right to refuſe putting every queſtion propoſed; Mr. Stratton moves, that the conſideration of this matter be deferred till to-morrow, and that the Board do meet at eleven in the forenoon for that purpoſe.

The Board adjourned accordingly to eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

AT A CONSULTATION, 20th Auguſt, 1776. Preſent as before. Tueſday 20th Auguſt.

The Preſident lays before the Board the following draught of a letter to the Rajah of Tanjore, which is read and approved.

To the Rajah of Tanjore.

MR. BENFIELD having, in the enclofed papers, reprefented, that a large quantity of grain, the produce of laft year's crop, had been feized in the Tanjore country, and that he has many debts due to him from the inhabitants in various parts, it is recommended to you "To give " all *reafonable* affiftance in recovering fuch debts as appear to be *juftly* " *due to him* from the inhabitants, as well as to reftore him the grain " of laft year, which was in the poffeffion of his people, and faid to be " forcibly taken from them." I enclofe you a copy of the act of Parliament, and particularly refer you to the paragraph marked ⊕, by which you will fee what is confidered as *juft claims*.

It has alfo been judged by a majority of the Council, that it was the Company's intention to let the Nabob have the produce of the crop, which had been fown during the time the Tanjore country was in his poffeffion, but have no intention that you or the country fhould be accountable for more than the Government-fhare of the crop, whatever that might be.

They do not mean to do more than recommend to you to fee juftice done, leaving the *manner* and *time* to *yourfelf*.

They defire me further to acquaint you, that notwithftanding their opinion on the above circumftances, that you may reft affured of the fame friendfhip and protection from the Company as the Nabob or any of their friends.

If you have any thing you wifh me to reprefent to the Company on this fubject, I defire you will pleafe to do it as fpeedily as you can, as a fhip will fail to England in a few days.

Orders

Orders ſhall be given for the immediate payment of the money due for the paddy which has been delivered, as well for what has been received at Vellum, as what has been ſhipped for this place, or ſold by the Company to the ſouthward. You will pleaſe therefore to order a particular account to be drawn out, and the amount ſhall be paid to your Vackeel.

Application has been made to the Nabob reſpecting the ground, &c. neceſſary for repairing the bank, and we expect an anſwer very ſoon.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Fort St. George, Your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant,
20th Auguſt, 1776. PIGOT.

Read a letter from the Governor-General and Council.

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, Preſident, &c. Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE have received your letter by the Swallow, accompanying extracts of your proceedings reſpecting the reſtoration of the Rajah of Tanjore.

We have juſt finiſhed the peruſal of theſe proceedings, and as we ſhall tranſmit you our ſentiments upon them in a few days, we requeſt, if the Grenville is not yet ſailed for England, you will pleaſe to detain her until you hear further from us.

We are, my Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Fort William, WARREN HASTINGS,
31ſt July, 1776. J. CLAVERING.
P. FRANCIS.

Ordered that the officer be ready for the difpatch of the Grenville by Tuefday next.

Mr. Mackay delivers in the following minute.

The Prefident refufing to put the queftion moved yefterday by Mr. Floyer, viz. to take into confideration the draught of inftructions to Colonel Stuart, Mr. Mackay thinks it neceffary to record this his opinion, that the Board do now proceed to take into confideration the faid inftructions.

Mr. Jourdan fubfcribes to Mr. Mackay's opinion.

The Prefident then declares, that having determined not to give his confent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore until Mr. Ruffell fhall be ordered to proceed thither, likewife he will not allow the matter to be now agitated at the Board.

Mr. Dalrymple begs leave to obferve, that he apprehends the Prefident mifunderftood the matter, that Members of the Council have a right to give in minutes, and that what his Lordfhip has faid might be conftrued to prevent members giving their fentiments on the records for the information of the Company.

Upon which the Prefident fays, that now underftanding it as minutes of the feveral Members, he could have no objection to their entering what they thought proper for the information of the Company.

Mr. Stratton then requefts of the Prefident in the moft earneft manner, that the queftion propofed yefterday by Mr. Floyer may be now put, as it appears to him confiftent with the conftitution and the rules of the fervice.

To which the Prefident makes the fame reply that he did yefterday to the queftion propofed by Mr. Floyer.

Mr. Palmer defires it may be minuted, that he is of the fame opinion as Mr. Mackay.

Mr.

Mr. Floyer. From the Prefident's having refufed to put the queftion, which I requefted might be put to the Board yefterday, I deem this the only alternative which is left me at the prefent, to collect the fentiments of the feveral members of the Board for their coming to a decifion thereupon. Mr. Palmer having given his opinion, I requeft to know, whether I fhall alfo be favoured with Mr. Stone's opinion on the queftion I have to put, as I wait his fentiments before I deliver my own, according to the eftablifhed cuftom of the Board.

Mr. Stone obferving, that there being no queftion before the Board, he thinks every member has a right to give his fentiments or not as he thinks proper, and therefore he deems it unneceffary to give an opinion on the occafion.

Mr. Floyer then offers it as his opinion, that the draught of the inftructions be now taken into confideration.

Mr. Brooke. I am of Mr. Mackay's opinion.

Mr. Stratton. Since the Prefident has repeatedly refufed putting the queftion propofed by Mr. Floyer, I muft here give it as my opinion; that I have well weighed and confidered the inftructions fent to the Council yefterday by the Commander in Chief, and as I think them very full and explicit, I give my hearty affent that they do now pafs and be fent to Colonel Stuart, fince that officer was on the 9th July appointed to the command of Tanjore, and on ordered to hold himfelf in readinefs to proceed thither.

Mr. Mackay. The majority of the Board being of opinion, that the inftructions for Colonel Stuart fhould be now taken into confideration, and having perufed the fame, I am of opinion that they are very proper, and I approve of them.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan. I approve of the inſtructions.

Mr. Palmer. I approve of the inſtructions.

Mr. Floyer. I approve of the draught of inſtructions to Colonel Stuart.

Mr. Brooke. I approve of the inſtructions.

Mr. Stratton. I have already given my ſentiments approving of the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart.

The majority of the Board approving of the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, they are now entered as followeth:

To Colonel James Stuart.

SIR,

1. BEING appointed to the command of the Fort and Garriſon of Tanjore, you are to proceed thither immediately, and take under your orders all the military forces, which at preſent are ſtationed in Tanjore and its dependencies, or which hereafter may be ordered thither. The force thus under your command is intended for the protection of the Rajah's perſon and government, and for the defence of his country; you are therefore forcibly to repel and purſue all invaders and plunderers, but you are not on any other account to march the troops out of the territories of Tanjore without particular orders from us.

2. By the ſeventh paragraph of the ſeparate letter from the Court of Directors, 12th April, 1775, all civil and military ſervants are forbid to interefere with the affairs of the Rajah's government; you are therefore ſtrictly to conform to the ſaid order.

3. In all matters which may concern the ſafety of Tanjore and its dependent forts, or which relate to proviſions or quarters under your command,

command, you are reſpectfully to repreſent and apply to the Rajah for the neceſſary aſſiſtance.

4. You are to enquire into the ſtate and condition of Tanjore reſpecting fortifications, military and other ſtores, quarters, barracks and other magazines, with every circumſtance that may be neceſſary for our information, when we come to conſider of the military eſtabliſhment proper for that country, with the means neceſſary to put the fort in a ſtate of defence; and you are to tranſmit to us with all convenient diſpatch the reſult of your enquiries.

5. You are to correſpond with us on all matters relating to the inſtructions now given, and with the Commander in Chief on all buſineſs reſpecting his department, agreeably to the inſtructions from the Court of Directors.

Mr. Stratton. I deſire that the ſtanding orders of the Company, 3d January, 1678, and 9th March, 1702, may be read.

Standing orders read as followeth.

"Whatever ſhall be agreed on by the majority ſhall be eſteemed the order by which each one is to act, and accordingly every individual perſon, even the diſſenters themſelves, are to perform their parts in the proſecution thereof, and in ſo doing they do their duty, and muſt not be blamed for the event." Again—

"We do ſtrictly enjoin that all our affairs be tranſacted in Council, "and ordered and managed as the majority of the Council ſhall de- "termine, and not otherwiſe, upon any pretence whatſoever, &c."

Mr. Stratton begs to have recorded the following extracts from an Act of Parliament, called an "Act for eſtabliſhing certain

" regulations for the better management of the affairs of the East
" India Company, as well in *India* as in Europe."

(P R E A M B L E.)

" Whereas the ſeveral powers and authorities granted by Charters
" to the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt
" Indies, have been found by experience not to have ſufficient force and
" efficacy, *to prevent various abuſes* which have prevailed in the govern-
" ment and adminiſtration of the affairs of the ſaid United Company,
" as well at *home* as in *India,* to the manifeſt injury of the public
" credit and of the commercial intereſts of the ſaid Company; and it
" is therefore become highly expedient that *certain further regulations,*
" better adapted to their preſent circumſtances and condition, ſhould
" be provided and eſtabliſhed. (Page 1305)."

" And be it enacted, by the authority aforeſaid, that in all caſes
" whatſoever, wherein any difference of opinion ſhall ariſe upon any
" queſtion propoſed in any conſultation, the ſaid Governor-General and
" Council ſhall be bound and concluded by the opinion and deciſion of
" the major part of thoſe then preſent; and if it ſhall happen that by
" the death, or removal, or by abſence of any of the members of the
" ſaid Council, ſuch Governor-General and Council ſhall happen
" to be equally divided, then, and in every ſuch caſe, the ſaid Governor-
" General, or in his abſence the eldeſt Counſellor preſent, ſhall have a
" caſting voice, and his opinion ſhall be deciſive and concluſive."

Whereupon Mr. Dalrymple gives in the following minute:

The firſt quotation of the ſtanding orders in 1678 appears to have ariſen from ſcruples of *acting* any thing ordered in Council by *majority* of *votes,* which obviouſly means a doubt whether *unanimity* was required;

quired; but the Company's records ſhew it never was an idea in thoſe times, that a majority of Council was the Board without the Governor.

IN CONSULTATION, 14th October, 1690. Preſent,

Eliſha Yale, Eſq. Preſident and Governor.
Mr. Thomas Wavell Mr. John Cheney
Capt. William Heath Mr. William Fraſer
Mr. Thomas Gray, ſick.

THE Council being duly ſummoned, general letter to the Right Honourable read and paſt.

This conſultation is ſigned by all except Captain Heath, but the other *three* members of Council enter their *diſapprobation* to the letter although *paſt*. The Company call it a *general letter*, ſigned only by the Preſident, but refuſed to be ſubſcribed by the next of Council. The Company afterwards ſay; "We are ſorry for the differences that have been amongſt you; and although there may have been too much heat and paſſion on both ſides, as there always is in ſuch caſes, yet we muſt do our Council ſo much right as to ſay they had reaſon to ſeparate themſelves from the Preſident; and it was much wiſer, and more for our ſervices that they did it jointly and altogether, than if they had divided themſelves into different factions on both ſides;" which ſurely convinces they had not the power of government excluſive of the Preſident.

The conſultations of that year have more inſtances of a majority of the Council againſt the Governor, but no inſtance where a meaſure was conſidered as the act of the *Board* 'till it met the Preſident's concurrence.

The majority have expreſſed by an &c. the concluding cauſe of the paragraph, which makes their ſecond quotation, and have omitted

I the

the firſt. The whole is; "This goes by the Taviſtock, and being now upon a new foundation and eſtabliſhment, it will be expected that we give particular directions for the management of our new affairs; wherefore, in the firſt place, having heard of ſome irregularities in ſome of the factories of either Company, we do ſtrictly enjoin that all our affairs be tranſacted in Council, and ordered and managed as the majority of Council ſhall determine, and not otherwiſe, upon any pretence whatſoever; and though we hope you'll all be unanimous in the purſuit of our COMMON INTEREST, yet if on any occaſion it happens that your votes are equally divided, the ſame muſt be determined by lot, as we by our charter are directed in ſuch caſes to do."

This is plainly not the preſent rule, and therefore this cannot be conſidered as expreſſive of the preſent rule of government. At that time the two Companies were not perfectly united. The order relates to the proceedings of the ſervants of both Companies, and there muſt have been *two* Preſidents, *one* of the old, the *other* of the new Company. Beſides, on examining the records, there is no ſuch letter in the liſt of the Taviſtock's packets as that referred to, viz. 9th March, 1702; there is one of the 5th March, 1702, but there is nothing in it to that effect; ſo that it is a paragraph without authority, not having come from the Court of Directors, and probably only private inſtructions from the managers of the one Company to their ſervants in what manner to conduct themſelves with reſpect to the ſervants of the other.

Mr. Mackay. The majority of the Board having approved the inſtructions for Colonel Stuart, I am of opinion that the Secretary ſhould have them wrote fair, and a letter be prepared to Colonel Harper to deliver up the command of Tanjore to Colonel Stuart.

Mr. Jourdan. I think the letters will be written of courſe.

Mr. Palmer. I think the letter will be written of courſe.

Mr. Floyer is of Mr. Mackay's opinion.

Mr. Brooke is of Mr. Mackay's opinion.

Mr. Stratton is of Mr. Mackay's opinion.

The inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, and the following letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, being wrote fair, the Preſident declares, that conformably to what he has before ſaid, he will not put his name to them; that having made uſe of every argument in his power to diſſuade the majority of the Council from attempting to carry this meaſure into execution without his concurrence, ſo he thinks it his duty to the Company, his friendſhip to the different members, and to the good order and government of the ſettlement, to deſire that they do not proceed further herein; and to declare as his opinion, that without his name to thoſe orders they are not the act of government, and men executing ſuch orders may be liable to difficulties, which he wiſhed the different members to be as ſenſible of as himſelf.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

YOU are hereby ordered, on the arrival of Colonel James Stuart at Tanjore, to deliver over to him the command of that garriſon, together with all ſuch orders and inſtructions as you may have received from us relative thereto. We are,

SIR,

Fort St. George, Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,
20th Auguſt, 1776.

Mr. Stratton moves, and Mr. Jourdan ſeconds the motion, that the letter be not ſigned for the preſent, but that the further conſideration of this matter be deferred until Thurſday morning at 11 o'clock.

Adjourned accordingly till Thurſday forenoon at 11 o'clock.

AT A CONSULTATION, 22d Auguſt, 1776. Preſent as before.

MINUTE delivered in by Meſſieurs Stratton, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay.

The Right Honorable the Preſident having refuſed to put the queſtion, on the 19th Auguſt, for taking into conſideration the inſtructions to Col. Stuart, we declare we conſider ſuch refuſal as inconſiſtent with the rules of the ſervice, and tending to ſubvert the conſtitution; but unwilling to proceed in haſte on a matter of ſo much importance, the Council was adjourned until the next day, when the Right Honourable the Preſident again declared he would not put the queſtion, (though then repeatedly urged to do it) declaring at the ſame time, that he was determined not to give his conſent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, until Mr. Ruſſell ſhall be ordered to proceed thither likewiſe, and that he would not allow the matter to be then agitated; "and having, "in a following minute, alſo declared it as his opinion, that without "his name to theſe orders (to Colonel Stuart) they are not the act of "the Government, and men executing ſuch orders may be liable to "difficulties;" we cannot but expreſs our aſtoniſhment at ſuch extraordinary declarations. We deny that the concurrence of the Preſident is neceſſary to conſtitute an act of government, and we declare his conduct to be unconſtitutional and illegal. We have not a doubt that the minority of the Board are obliged to aſſiſt in carrying into execution the orders of the majority, by ſubſcribing to the reſolutions of that majority; and the Preſident is as much bound by theſe orders as any other member of the Board. But he has thought proper, contrary to the eſtabliſhed rules of the ſervice, to declare poſitively, that he would not ſign thoſe inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, though thoſe inſtructions have been approved by a majority of the Board, and thereby became an act of Government. Willing to give further time for the conſideration of this weighty matter, Meſſieurs Stratton and Jourdan moved the adjournment of the Council, and the Council was accordingly adjourned to this

this day; but previous to the profecution of this bufinefs, as a refufal to put queftions muft retard, if not totally ftop, the execution of every meafure not conformable to the fentiments of the Prefident. We declare that we are of opinion, that in any cafe of the Prefident's refufal to put a queftion propofed by any member, it fhall be the duty of the Secretary to put that queftion, beginning firft with the youngeft member, and the duty of every member of Council to anfwer fuch queftion; and that a refufal to anfwer, fhall be deemed a breach of the Company's ftanding orders.

The annexed extracts from Mr. Vanfittart's narrative will elucidate the point in queftion.

Vanfittart's Narrative. Vol. 1ft.

1. " That the refolutions of the majority are to be deemed the re-
" folutions of the Board, and are to be figned by the whole Board."

Vol. 2. p. 133. " Though I had no other arms than the rectitude of " my intentions, and the propriety of meafures which I had taken to " oppofe to thefe violences."

Vol. 3. p. 137. Vanfittart figns inftructions; he difapproves conforming therein to the eftablifhed rule of the Company's governments, which is, that every member fhall fign the public orders and records, entering his diffent when he differs from the opinion of the majority in the confultations. It will be remembered, that I ftrongly infifted on this rule, when Meffieurs Amyatt and Ellis refufed to fign the orders of the Board, and fubfcribed their diffent to them, and it was therefore the more neceffary I fhould comply with it on all occafions myfelf.

The Prefident then addreffes himfelf to the Board as followeth:

The

The Majority having proceeded so far on Tuesday last, as to bring the instructions to Colonel Stuart, and the letter to Colonel Harper, to the point, of signing; and he the President, having refused to put his name thereto, recommending that the gentlemen of the majority would please to consider, whether it were not prudent in them to proceed no further; and remarking, at the same time, what difficulties men were liable to, executing such orders as, in his opinion, are not an act of Government, without his name being affixed to them; and having had the satisfaction then, to find that the several members wished to give this matter full consideration, by desiring an adjournment of two days, and receiving now the still greater satisfaction of finding no gentleman urge the prosecution thereof; he (the President) hopes that he may be so fortunate, as to meet the gentlemen inclined to let this matter rest, until the pleasure of their Honourable Masters is known; and therefore recommends that they will do so. The President further adds, that it seems to him quite necessary, that something decisive should make its appearance before our Honourable Masters, that they may not, on the arrival of the Grenville, remain with fears that this is only a sore patched up, ready to break out afresh, to the great detriment and bad government of their affairs.

The following Minutes are thereupon given in.

I did not consent to the appointment of Colonel Stuart to Tanjore without due consideration. I cannot concur in opinion with the Right Honourable President, but think the resolution of Council should be carried into execution without farther delay; and as the Right Honourable President refuses to sign the instructions, I am of opinion they should be signed by the Secretary *by order of Council*, and immediately sent to him.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

I am of the same opinion, GEO. MACKAY.

I concur, A. PALMER.

On

On thefe inftructions I have already given my opinion, and that they are very proper and explicit; and I am forry that the Right Honourable the Prefident fhould ftill refufe figning them. I have not a doubt but, agreeable to the rules of the fervice, he ought to do fo, fince they have been agreed on by a majority of this Board, which, I again repeat, I look upon as the act of Government; and concur in opinion with Meffieurs Mackay, Jourdan, and Palmer, that the inftructions, and letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, fhould be figned by the Secretary *by order of Council*, and immediately fent to Colonel Stuart.

GEO. STRATTON.

I am of opinion with Mr. Stratton, HENRY BROOKE.

I have weighed the matter now before the Board with all the deliberation I think the importance of the fubject requires of me. It would make me extremely happy, in concurrence with the Prefident's wifh, that the appointment of Colonel Stuart to Tanjore fhould be deferred until the pleafure of the Court of Directors can be known; it would be the means of effecting fo defirable an event, as a reconciliation of the unhappy differences in opinion, which have but too long already prevailed among the members of this Government. But, when I reflect on the tendency of the Prefident's arguments and declarations, in fupport of his having a power to a negative upon all acts of the majority which he does not approve of, and that, by virtue of fuch negative, no meafures of the majority can be deemed acts of this Government, and confequently cannot be carried into execution, I cannot hefitate to declare fuch arguments and declarations to be replete with innumerable dangers to the Honourable Company's affairs under our management. Nor can I conceive the prefent difficulties can poffibly end here, as the Prefident has frequently declared he is extremely averfe at this time

to the departure of the Committee of Circuit, which if the Board, in the inſtance before us, conſents to, the reference recommended by the Preſident may give him, the Preſident, the ſame plea for putting his negative upon the departure of its members, when the period fixed upon arrives for their proceeding on that duty. I could enumerate many other arguments equally cogent againſt the Preſident's being inveſted with the power of putting ſuch a negative, but I believe they have moſtly been obſerved by me already in the courſe of ourdebates at this Board.

I join therefore in opinion with Mr. Jourdan, that if the Preſident ſtill perſiſts in his refuſal to ſign the inſtructions and letter now before us, they ſhould be ſigned by our Secretary, by order of Council, and diſpatched forthwith.

CHARLES FLOYER.

The majority of the Board then deliver in the following minute.

Having thus given our opinion on the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, and letter to Lieut. Colonel Harper, we call on the Preſident to direct that the Secretary ſhould ſign the ſaid letters to Colonel Stuart and Lieut. Colonel Harper; and on his refuſal to give ſuch directions, we the majority do look upon ourſelves as authorized to order him to do ſo.

George Stratton,
Henry Brooke,
Charles Floyer,
Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay.

The Preſident, on peruſing this minute of the majority, declares, that he will not give orders to the Secretary; in conſequence of which the following letter is wrote.

To

To Mr. Secretary Sulivan.

SIR,

WE, the majority of the Board, having approved of the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, and the letter to Lieut. Colonel Harper; and the Preſident not only having refuſed to ſign them himſelf, but alſo refuſed to order you to do it; we are reduced to the diſagreeable neceſſity of directing you to ſign the ſaid inſtructions and letter *by Order of Council*, and ſend them to Colonel Stuart.

Fort St. George,	(Signed)	George Stratton,
22d Auguſt, 1776.		Henry Brooke.

As ſoon as the letter was ſigned by Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke, the Preſident took the ſame into his poſſeſſion, and taking notice to the Council of the frequent times he had entreated them not to carry this matter further, but to wait the determination of the Court of Directors, declared he would now ſtop it where it was, and delivered in the following paper:

I charge George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Eſquires, of being guilty of an act ſubverſive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy, in the ſigning orders to the Secretary to give inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, which have not been approved and paſſed by the Preſident and the Council.

Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke think it proper here to record, that before the Preſident delivered in the foregoing paper, which we will not admit to be a charge, the Preſident ſnatched out of Mr. Brooke's hand, after Mr. Brooke had ſigned, a paper containing an order to the Secretary, agreed upon by the majority of the Board, as expreſſed by Meſſieurs Stratton, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who were on the point of ſigning the ſaid orders, but prevented from ſo doing by the paper being as before recited ſnatched from the hand of Mr. Brooke; and

and we call upon the different members, as well as Mr. Sulivan and Mr. Baine, the Secretary and Sub-secretary, to declare, whether the circumstances were not as here set forth.

As the minute aforegoing, given in by the President, contains a charge of the highest nature against Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, he now recommends that those gentlemen be ordered to withdraw, that their conduct may be taken into consideration.

Mr. Jourdan moves, and Mr. Mackay seconds the motion, that the Board do adjourn 'till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The President then moves the Board to come to the following resolution;

RESOLVED, that George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Esquires, be now suspended from the Company's service, until the Company's pleasure be known."

Mr. Mackay	Against the Resolution.
Mr. Jourdan	Against the Resolution.
Mr. Palmer	Against the Resolution.
Mr. Stone	For the Resolution.
Mr. Floyer	Against the Resolution.

Mr. Dalrymple For the Resolution. I think the act of Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, in signing directions to the Secretary to issue orders, which no officer can convenieniently with his Commission obey, is subversive of government, and tending to introduce anarchy; I am therefore for the question.

Mr. Russell For the Resolution.

The

The Secretary was here ordered by the Prefident to take no vote from either Mr. Brooke or Mr. Stratton on the queftion before the Board, as the ftanding orders of the Company direct, that no member fhall fit in Council when a charge is delivered in againft him.

The Prefident for the refolution; and as, on cafting up the votes, it appears they are equal 4 to 4, the Prefident defires it may be recorded, that befides his vote he gives his cafting voice for the refolution.

Carried accordingly *for* the refolution by the Prefident's cafting voice.

Mr. Mackay. I look upon the paper given in by the Prefident, as a charge againft Meffrs. Stratton and Brooke, to be one of the moft arbitrary proceedings ever known in India, folely intended to get rid of the votes of thofe gentlemen, in order to form a majority at the Board; and I proteft againft the Prefident and the members who have joined him in any fuch illegal acts.

Mr. Jourdan. I do infift that this proceeding is not an act of the Board, but irregular, and do proteft againft the Prefident, and thofe members of the Board who have voted with him, for the illegality of their proceeding.

Mr. Palmer fubfcribes to Mr. Jourdan's proteft.

Mr. Floyer. I proteft againft the Prefident and the other members, for refufing Meffrs. Stratton and Brooke their voices on this occafion, deeming the charge on which the Prefident's motion is grounded directly contrary to the refolution paffed this day by a majority of the Board.

The Prefident then adjourned the Council 'till to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

22d. Conformably to the refolution of this day's Confultation the following General Orders and letter were wrote.

G. O. *Fort St. George, 22 Auguſt, 1776.*

THE Right Honourable the Preſident and Council, having thought it neceſſary to ſuſpend George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Eſquires, from the Honourable Company's ſervice, the honours of Second on the Coaſt devolve to Claud Ruſſell, Eſquire, who is to receive them accordingly.

By Order of the Preſident and Council,

RIC. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

To George Stratton, Eſq;

SIR,

I AM ordered by the Right Honourable the Preſident and Council to acquaint you, that they have thought proper to ſuſpend you from the ſervice of the Eaſt-India Company, and you are accordingly hereby ſuſpended therefrom, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors ſhall be known.

Dated in Fort St. George, 22d Auguſt, 1776, and ſigned by Order of the Preſident and Council,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

To Henry Brooke, Eſq.

SIR,

I AM ordered by the Right Honourable the Preſident and Council to acquaint you, that they have thought proper to ſuſpend you from the ſervice of the Eaſt-India Company, and you are accordingly hereby

hereby ſuſpended therefrom, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors ſhall be known.

Dated in Fort St. George, 22d Auguſt, 1776; and ſigned by order of the Preſident and Council,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

N. B. The draught of theſe letters being in the poſſeſſion of Lord Pigot, copy of the uſual form of a letter of ſuſpenſion is here entered in its room.

AT A CONSULTATION, 23d Auguſt, 1776. Friday, 23d Auguſt, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor.

Claud Ruſſell	Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone	Richard Lathom.

The Minutes of laſt Conſultation read and approved.

MR. LATHOM having arrived from Cuddalore, takes his ſeat at the Board.

The Secretary having, in conſequence of the Preſident's orders, iſſued a ſummons to Claud Ruſſell, Eſquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Alexander Dalrymple, Charles Floyer, John Maxwell Stone, Archdale Palmer, and Richard Lathom, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, Eſquires, deſiring their attendance in Council this morning, the Preſident acquaints the Board, that Mr. Bromley, a Notary Public, had put into his hands about half an hour ago the following paper, which he declared to be a proteſt:

To

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President, &c. Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Eſquires, &c. Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE whoſe names are underwritten, being of Council, and conſtituting a majority hereof, taking into our moſt ſerious conſideration the proceedings upon record at the two laſt meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the conſtitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our members by an illegal attempt to ſuſpend them, in order by a trick to gain a majority, are of opinion that the public ſafety is in danger by the conduct of Lord Pigot, and you Gentlemen who have ſupported, and every perſon who ſhall continue to ſupport ſuch meaſures, and we ſhall hold you therefore reſponſible for all the conſequences that may enſue. We, the majority of the Board, do conſider ourſelves as the legal repreſentatives of the Honourable Company under this Preſidency, and as ſuch we have no doubt but all the ſervants of the Company will regard us. For theſe reaſons, and the evident illegality of the ſummons to Council for this morning, in which are omitted the names of Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal members of the Board, we cannot, conſiſtently with the duty we owe to our Honourable Employers, attend the ſaid ſummons. We are,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Madras, 23d Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

George Stratton
Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
George Mackay.

The President lays before the Board the following draught of a letter to the Nabob, which is read and approved.

To the Nabob.

May it pleafe your Highnefs,

The Court of Directors, by their letters received this feafon, have been pleafed to direct me to reprefent to your Highnefs their " wifhes, that " you would tranfmit every reprefentation you may have occafion to fend " to England, through the ancient channel of the Governor and " Council."

I am to acknowledge your Highnefs's letter of the 16th and 17th inftant, in which you are pleafed to fay you will rent the Trepaffore, &c. diftricts for another year, on the conditions mentioned in my letter of the 27th July; as there is a miftake in this date, I beg your Highnefs will pleafe to fet it right: the date of my letter, which contains the conditions propofed, is the 9th of Auguft; I wrote a letter to your Highnefs the 23d July on that fubject, but the conditions were not fo particularly explained in that letter.

What your Highnefs has been pleafed to fay of the attention that you will pay to thofe diftricts gives me much fatisfaction.

Your Highnefs has not been pleafed to give me any reply to the letter I wrote concerning Hanamuntgoody and Arney; nor has your Highnefs informed me of the orders which I doubt not you have given concerning the materials neceffary for the repairs of the bank; permit me to requeft that I may receive your reply on thefe fubjects, as it will be very fatisfactory to the Company.

5 D I am

I am persuaded some subjects are treated on in this letter which are not pleasing to your Highness; it is *my duty only* which could compel me to name them; but the perfect esteem I ever have had for your Highness, and the friendship I have always professed, must make me solicitous that all your measures should tend to strengthen the friendship between your Highness and the Company; and if you can point out any manner in which I can more fully testify my attention to your Highness, it will make me happy.

I have the honour to be

Your Highness's

Most obedient and most humble servant,

Fort St: George,
24th August, 1776.

PIGOT.

Messieurs Stone, Dalrymple, and Russell, deliver in minutes on the proceedings of yesterday.

They likewise deliver in a joint minute, declaring that they do not think Lord Pigot snatched the paper from Mr. Brooke at yesterday's Council, as recorded by Messieurs Stratton and Brooke.

Read letters from the Nabob under date the 16th and 17th of August, as entered in Country Correspondence, No.

AT A CONSULTATION, 23d August 1776,

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President, Governor.

Claud Ruſſell,	Alexander Dalrymple,
John Maxwell Stone,	Richard Lathom.

Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom, Eſquires, being aſſembled at the deſire of Lord Pigot, he acquaints them, that while he was at dinner the Town Major waited upon him, and informed him he had received a letter from Mr. Bromley, Notary Publick, with a copy of a proteſt ſigned by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, ſaid to be delivered to the Preſident and Council this morning; and that the officer of the Main Guard, as well as other officers in garriſon, had received ſimilar letters and copies of the proteſt; Lord Pigot therefore thought it expedient to deſire their attendance, to conſult on the neceſſary meaſures to be taken on the occaſion. Friday afternoon, 23d August, 1776.

Mr. Oakeley and Mr. Sulivan, the Secretaries, being ordered to attend, acquaint his Lordſhip with their having received letters to the ſame effect, and copies of the proteſt from the Notary Publick.

It likewiſe appears, that Sir Edward Hughes has been furniſhed with a copy of it, as well as Captain Webb, Commander of the Company's ſhip London, and others.

Mr. Bromley, the Notary Publick, who delivered the proteſt to Lord Pigot this morning, being ſent for, and aſked from whom he received that paper; replies, that he received his orders at Sir Robert Fletcher's houſe from thoſe gentlemen whoſe names are affixed to the proteſt.

The

The Board, unwilling to proceed to extremity, were inclined to give Sir Robert Fletcher, Meffieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, fome time to confider the impropriety of their conduct, in delivering by the hands of a Notary-Public this morning, to the Prefident a paper tending to fubvert the authority of Government; but finding that they have fince then united in circulating that paper to the officer of the main guard, and many other officers in garrifon, and to the Commander of the Company's fhip London, as well as to the Secretaries of the Council, they think they cannot, confiftent with their duty to the Company, delay fufpending Meffieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, from the Company's fervice; and it is accordingly refolved to fufpend them therefrom, until the Company's pleafure fhall be known.

But Sir Robert Fletcher being a military officer, it is refolved, that he be immediately ordered into arreft, and brought to a General Court-Martial, for circulating letters tending to excite and caufe mutiny and fedition among the troops in this garrifon; and that Colonel James Stuart be ordered to take upon him the command of the troops under this Prefidency.

The Secretaries beg leave to enter the following minute:

It is with much concern we obferve the feceffion of fo many members of the Council, and the fteps which they have purfued to exert the authority of Government. As the immediate fervants of the Board, we find ourfelves firft called upon to act in this juncture; and our fituation being particular, we hope to be indulged with a few words to explain the motives of our conduct.

We declare we have nothing fo much at heart as the faithful and upright difcharge of our duty; if, being left to our own judgment, we are wrong in our ideas on this point, we flatter ourfelves we fhall meet with indulgence. We are of opinion, from what we have read in the ftanding orders and regulations of the Company, that the affairs of this Government

Government can only be transacted *in Council*, and that Council we think cannot be formed without *the President*; in proof of this we shall quote the following passages:

STANDING ORDERS.

9th March, 1702. "We do strictly enjoin, that all our affairs be "transacted *in Council*, &c." and the commission of Government says, "And we do hereby give and grant unto our said *President* and *Governor*, "George Lord Pigot, and to *our Council* afore-named, or to the major "part of them (the whole Council, except such who are absent as "Chiefs at subordinate factories being duly summoned) full power "and authority, &c."

Upon these grounds, we think it our duty to act under the orders of the Council which has been assembled by the President. We do not conceive, in our subordinate situation, that it will be expected of us to consider the point of legality or propriety in any of the late proceedings; whilst the form of the constitution is observed, we must adhere to it. The proceedings of the Board, or of the particular persons who compose it, can only be judged by the Court of Directors.

Charles Oakeley,
R. J. Sulivan.

In consequence of the foregoing resolution, the following letters and orders are now issued.

To Charles Floyer, Esq.

S I R,

The Prefident and Council, unwilling to proceed to extremity, were inclined to give you fome time to confider the impropriety of your conduct, in delivering by the hands of a Notary-Public, this morning, to the Prefident, a paper tending to fubvert the authority of Government; but finding, that fince then, you have united in circulating that paper to the officer of the main guard, and many other officers of this garrifon, and to the commander of the Company's fhip London, as well as to the Secretaries of the Council, they think they cannot, confiftent with their duty to the Company, delay fufpending you from the Company's fervice; and they have accordingly fufpended you therefrom until the Company's pleafure fhall be known.

Signed,

Fort St. George, 23d Auguft, 1776.

By order of the Prefident and Council,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

A letter to the like effect was fent at the fame time to each of the following Gentlemen; Arch. Palmer, Efq. Francis Jourdan, Efq. and George Mackay, Efq.

Fort St. George, 23d Auguft, 1776.

THE Right Honourable the Prefident and Council having been pleafed to order Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher in arreft, for being concerned in circulating letters tending to excite and caufe mutiny and fedition among the troops in this garrifon, Colonel James Stuart is ordered to take upon him the command of the troops under this Prefidency, and all reports and returns are to be made to him accordingly.

By order of the Prefident and Council,

R. J. SULIVAN.

The

The draught of the minutes of this afternoon's consultation, as also a minute wrote in the morning, by Messieurs Stone, Dalrympleand Russell, being in the possession of Lord Pigot, or some of those Gentlemen, the Secretary has been obliged to draw out these proceedings from the best of his recollection.

N. B. Mr. Dalrymple having sent the Secretary the papers mentioned above, they are entered in Consultation, 18th September, the day on which the Secretary received them.

AT A CONSULTATION, Friday morning, 23d Aug. 1776.

PRESENT,

George Stratton, Esq.	Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan

George Mackay, Esqrs.

AGREED by us, seven Members, constituting a majority of the Council of Fort St. George and its dependencies, that the following letter of protest be immediately sent to Lord Pigot, President and Governor, and to Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple and Stone, three other Members of the Council at this Presidency.

To

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President, &c. Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Eſqrs. of Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE, whoſe names are under-written, being of Council, and conſtituting a majority thereof, taking into our moſt ſerious conſideration the proceedings upon record at the two laſt meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the conſtitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our number, by an illegal attempt to ſuſpend them, in order by a trick to gain a majority, are of opinion that the public ſafety is in danger by the conduct of Lord Pigot, and you, Gentlemen, who have ſupported, and by every perſon who ſhall continue to ſupport ſuch meaſures; and we ſhall hold you therefore reſponſible for all the conſequences that may enſue. We, the majority of the Board, do conſider ourſelves as the only legal repreſentatives of the Honourable Company, under this Preſidency, and as ſuch we have no doubt but all the ſervants will regard us.

For theſe reaſons, and the evident illegality of the ſummons to Council for this morning, in which are omitted the names of Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal Members of the Board, we cannot conſiſtently with the duty we owe to our Honourable Employers, attend the ſaid ſummons.

We are, my Lord and Gentlemen,

Madraſs,
23d Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient, humble ſervants,

G. S. R. F. H. B. C. F. A. P. F. J. G. M.

It being deemed neceſſary that the letter of proteſt be delivered into the hands of Lord Pigot, &c. by a Notary Public, in his official capacity, Mr. Charles Bromley was accordingly ſent for; and the ſaid proteſt, being

being first duly signed, was delivered to him for the before-mentioned purpose.

The aforesaid members, constituting a majority of the Council of Fort St. George, judging it necessary to inform the Governor-General and Council at Bengal of the present distracted state of the Honourable Company's affairs under this Government, it is unanimously agreed to address them in manner following, and to convey this dispatch to them by the Honourable Company's ship Shrewsbury, which is to sail this morning for Bengal, under cover of the packet now transmitted to that Presidency by Commodore Sir Edward Hughes; the Commodore having signified to us that he would do so.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esq. Governor-General, &c. Council in Bengal.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

WE take this occasion to address you upon the publick danger which impends over this settlement, from the conduct of our President, and other members of our Board, who maintain, that the executive powers of Government are not lodged in a majority of the members of this Board, unless the President is of that number, and that the President's personal assent is absolutely necessary to constitute every act of Government.

Since the dispatches to you per Swallow, we have been engaged in continual disputes about the appointment of Mr. Russell to the Residency, and Colonel Stuart to the Command of Tanjore; and upon the rights of the majority of this Board, which have been denied by the minority. We have observed the greatest moderation to prevent coming to extremities; but Lord Pigot, who has watched an opportunity, has, by a most unparallelled act, attempted to usurp the Government, and

thereby ſhewn how little he merits that moderation. We ſhall now relate the circumſtances.

Colonel Stuart was long ſince appointed by the majority of the Board to the command of Tanjore; and propoſed inſtructions to him having been laid before the Board, the conſideration of them was deferred, and the Colonel given out in general orders to hold himſelf in readineſs to proceed to Tanjore. Soon after the Commander in Chief being indiſpoſed ſent inſtructions for Colonel Stuart more full and explicit, which he recommended ſhould be taken into conſideration; it was therefore moved to take them under conſideration accordingly; but to our great aſtoniſhment, when the queſtion was propoſed and *recorded*, the Preſident poſitively declared he would not put it, nor would he ever give his ſanction to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, unleſs Mr. Ruſſell were likewiſe permitted to go. In conſequence the Council was adjourned to the next day, and the Inſtructions were again produced; and as the Preſident would not put the queſtions propoſed in them, the mode that occurred was for every member to write his opinion, and therefrom collect the opinion of the majority: the inſtructions were then approved and wrote fair, but the Preſident declaring he would not ſign them, the majority of the Board gave their opinion in the ſame manner, that they ought to be ſigned by the Secretary. The Preſident obſerved, that this was not a ſufficient warrant for the Secretary; upon which the paper, No. 1, was then written; Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke having ſigned this paper, the Preſident ſnatched it out of Mr. Brooke's hand, and immediately took out of his pocket a written charge, No. 2, which he had prepared a few minutes before, and he then moved their ſuſpenſion; notwithſtanding a motion for adjournment, regularly made and ſeconded, he carried by his caſting vote, although he was the accuſer, and by excluding the votes of the two gentlemen; we proteſted againſt the illegality of their proceedings, and on this day a ſummons, leaving out the names of thoſe two

gen-

gentlemen, having been sent round, we have separated ourselves from a minority, who have thus illegally seized the Government. We enclose you a protest, No. 3, we have sent them, declaring our rights not infringed by their violence, although we refuse to act with them, and we mean to claim those rights of the servants of the Company. We submit the whole to your consideration, calling upon you for your assistance and support in the present dangerous exigency of affairs. We cannot however conclude without observing, that Lord Pigot's conduct, in refusing to let Colonel Stuart go unless Mr. Russell were also sent, carries with it a very strong presumption, that he was actuated by private views, and not from any public motives; and we think it our duty to declare, that we are of opinion, while the management of the Company's affairs is intrusted with such men as Lord Pigot, Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, the greatest danger is to be apprehended from them. It is necessary to inform you, that as Lord Pigot's violence hath obliged us to remove from the Fort, and as the Tappals are all carried to him, we are apprehensive that your answer to our Council by the Swallow will be concealed from us.

We are, with great respect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Madras,
23d August, 1776. Your most obedient, humble Servants,

Charles Floyer. Geo Stratton,
Archdale Palmer, Rob Fletcher,
Francis Jourdan, Henry Brooke,
Geo Mackay,

AT

AT A CONSULTATION, 23d August 1776.

PRESENT,

Friday evening 23d of August.

George Stratton, Esq. Sir Robert Fletcher,
Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer,
Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay.

RESOLVED, That a ſenſe of the public danger, and a regard for the conſtitution of the Company, have obliged us in this manner to form ourſelves into a Council, ſince the letter addreſſed by us this morning, as entered in the diary, have had no effect. That we propoſe therefore regularly to aſſemble and watch over the public ſafety, and the important concerns of the Honourable Company intruſted to us, as an undoubted majority of Council. That the firſt concern that comes under our conſideration is, that the fortreſs and garriſon of Fort St. George be in our hands, and under our command, as the legal repreſentatives of the Eaſt-India Company; and as Lord Pigot, from his late conduct, has dared to violate every law which ought to bind a ſervant who has ſworn fidelity to the Company; uncertain as we are to what further exceſs he may proceed, we think it our duty, if neceſſary, to arreſt his perſon. That for theſe purpoſes we hereby order, inſtruct, and empower Colonel James Stuart, on whom, during the unhappy indiſpoſition of Sir Robert Fletcher, we confer the command of the army, as well as of the garriſon of Fort St. George during the preſent danger, to take ſuch meaſures as to him ſhall appear proper to place the fort, garriſon, and Fort-houſe, under our command, ſo that public tranquility may be reſtored, and the buſineſs of the Honourable Company be carried on in the uſual manner. That we further order and direct Colonel James Stuart, if he ſees it neceſſary, or that reſiſtance to theſe

our

our orders to arrest the person of Lord Pigot, or of any other person who shall obstruct him in the execution of these our orders; and for these salutary purposes, we hereby order all Company's servants, civil and military, and all persons who live under the protection of this Government, to give to the said Colonel James Stuart every assistance and support in their power, for which this shall be his and their warrant. Given under our hands, Madrass the 23d August, 1776, at 3 o'clock P. M.

24th. *To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor-General, &c. Council of Bengal.*

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

WE had yesterday the honour to write to you, since when Lord Pigot and the minority declared Messrs. Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, suspended the service, and ordered Sir Robert Fletcher into arrest. We refused to receive any letters from them, and do not by any means admit any act of the said Lord Pigot and his associates to be valid. We mean to leave no legal method untried to execute the trust reposed in us, but we hope you will nevertheless give such orders as may remove our difficulties. We think it incumbent on us to add, that the Nabob is much alarmed; and we apprehend, from the knowledge of the men who have the power, and particularly on account of the personal disputes between him and Lord Pigot, that if it should remain with them, he has reason to fear such violences and affronts.

We should yesterday have explained to you, that the paper on which Lord Pigot founded his charge was a paper written fair from

a copy approved by the majority, and acknowledged as ſuch by the whole of them at the Board.

We are, with great reſpect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient humble Servants,

Madras,
24th Auguſt, 1776.

Geo. Stratton,
Rob. Fletcher,
Henry Brooke,
Charles Floyer,
Arch. Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
Geo. Mackay.

To Colonel William Flint, commanding at Poonamallee.

SIR,

THE violent and illegal proceedings of Lord Pigot, and Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, having obliged us to ſeparate ourſelves from them, we, the majority of the Council, being the only lawful repreſentatives of the Company on this coaſt; the conſtitution of the Company being, that on every diviſion, the act of the majority of the Council ſhall be the act of Government, from which the minority may diſſent, but are bound to conform thereto; we do, in the name of the ſaid Company, order and direct you, as you ſhall anſwer for the conſequences, not to obey any other orders than thoſe you may from time to time receive from us. We are, Sir,

Madraſs,
Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble Servants,
G. Stratton, R. Fletcher, H. Brooke,
C. Floyer, A. Palmer, F. Jourdan,
G. Mackay.

To

To Major Matthew Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

THE violent and illegal proceedings of Lord Pigot, and Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, having obliged us to separate ourselves from them, we, the majority of the Council, being the only legal representatives of the Company on this coast; the constitution of the Company being, that on any division, the act of the majority of the Council shall be the act of the government, from which the minority may dissent, but are bound to conform thereto; we do, in the name of the said Company, order and direct you, as you shall answer for the consequences, not to obey any other orders than those you may from time to time receive from us.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants.

AT A CONSULTATION, 24th August, 1776

PRESENT,

George Stratton, Esquire, President.

Saturday night, half past nine.

Sir Robert Fletcher,	Henry Brooke,
Charles Floyer,	Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,	George Mackay.

Colonel Stuart having, in consequence of our orders issued to him yesterday, reported to us that Lord Pigot was in arrest at the Mount, and that all the military officers in this Fort having declared it to be their duty and resolution to obey all orders they may receive from us, the present majority of the Council, or the majority for the time being, we immediately came to the Council Chamber in the Fort-house, and being thus legally assembled, we called all the military

tary officers of this garrifon before us, and read to them the following proclamation, which met with their unanimous concurrence, and confirmed to us the declaration which Colonel Stuart reported to us.

In the name of his Majefty and the Englifh Nation, from whom are derived the authorities and powers of the Honourable Eaft-India Company, our conftituents, we, the fubfcribing members of their government of Fort St. George and its dependencies, compofing a majority of the members of the faid government, and therefore by law, and the exprefs orders of the Company, being virtually the government, iffue the following proclamation:

Whereas the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident, and Claud Ruffell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, Efquires, members of our Council, have, by various arbitrary and illegal acts, attempted to fuperfede in us the authority of the Company, and to affume to themfelves the powers of this government, contrary to law and the orders of the Company, which can be demonftrated to every individual by the following meafures which they have attempted to execute, and which are entered on the records of the Company.

Firft, That the faid Prefident has exprefsly maintained, that he would not put queftions moved by the members of the majority if he did not chufe to do fo; that he had a right to adjourn the Council, contrary to the opinion of the majority, as well as that, by putting a negative to any refolution of a majority, he can ftop the execution of fuch refolution. A fyftem which proves to the meaneft capacity, that it is replete with the greateft dangers to the community, and exprefsly contrary to the conftitution of a government vefted in the hands of more than one member. Thus, if an enemy invaded this fettlement, and that a Prefident chofe to oppofe preparations for the public defence, it is evident that the lofs of the fettlement might attend fuch powers in the hands of an ill-difpofed Prefident. And further,

ther, if ſuch a ſyſtem was ſupported, and that a Preſident veſted with ſuch powers was detected in ſacrificing the public intereſt to his own, it is clear that no meaſure of detection or puniſhment could be carried againſt him.

Secondly, It had been reſolved that Colonel Stuart ſhould be ſent to the command of Tanjore, and inſtructions had been recommended by the Commander in Chief, but the Preſident refuſed to put the queſtion for their being taken into conſideration. The majority of the Council, who had before reſolved on the neceſſity of ſending Colonel Stuart, had no other mode left, excepting ſuſpenſion, but that of entering their opinions in writing; firſt, that they ought to be then conſidered, and next, that they were proper and full; and the Preſident refuſing to ſign them, the majority, unwilling to come to extremities, further gave it as their opinion, that they ſhould be ſigned by the Secretary. This, the Preſident ſaid, he thought would not be a ſufficient authority for the Secretary, and in conſequence, as the Secretary did not ſeem to think it ſufficient, with the unanimous agreement of the majority, an order to the Secretary to ſign it by *order of Council* was written, then copied fair, and when ſigned by Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, was ſnatched by the Preſident out of Mr. Brooke's hands, and the very ſame inſtant the Preſident pulled out of his pocket a charge againſt thoſe Gentlemen for an intention to ſubvert the government, and introduce anarchy, by ſigning an order to the Secretary without the concurrence of the Preſident and Council.

It muſt here be remarked, that as he came from his cloſet prepared, it muſt have been his intention to ſeize the paper as ſoon as it was ſigned by as many of the majority as he wanted to get rid of. On this frivolous charge he moved the ſuſpenſion of theſe two Gentlemen, and by excluding their votes, and voting himſelf, although the accuſer, by his caſting vote he carried the motion. And that although it was moved to adjourn the Council previous to his putting his queſtion,

 he

he would not hear it, but proceeded; and as ſoon as he had effected his deſign he adjourned the Council, although the members of the majority then ſtaid, and refuſed to conſent to it.

An attempt, which if by law or cuſtom it could have any effect, it muſt have virtually ſuſpended his own authority, his being but a part of the government which he attempted thus to *ſupercede*. That he iſſued in public military orders the ſaid illegal attempt as the act of the Governor and Council, thereby attempting, in violation of every right and privilege of this conſtitutional government, to aſſume a perſonal power over the military.

Thirdly. His having violently endeavoured to ſuperſede the whole authority of Us and of the Commander in Chief of the army, and endeavoured to compel obedience from all the ſervants civil and military to himſelf and his aſſociates, as if he and they poſſeſſed legally and conſtitutionally the authority inveſted by the royal charter and the orders of the Company in a majority of the members of the Government, which majority we the ſubſcribing members virtually and effectually compoſe.

For theſe weighty reaſons, no leſs clear than intereſting to every individual, whether a ſervant of the Company, or under their protection, it is hereby enacted and proclaimed, that George Stratton, Eſq. is, according to the orders of the Company, Preſident of the Council and Governor of Fort St. George, and that the powers of Lord Pigot, and Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple and Stone, ſtand annulled. It is therefore ordered and proclaimed, by the authority of the aforeſaid Preſident, We, the ſubſcribing members of Council, being the only legal repreſentatives of the Company on this Coaſt, that all the ſervants civil and military do obey our orders immediately; and every ſervant failing in ſuch duty is held anſwerable by their commiſſion or ſtation in the ſervice of the Company. And it is farther proclaimed, that all ſervants civil and military ſhall be indemnified againſt any oppreſſions or diſ-

 advantages.

advantages they have or may suffer by the usurped authority of the Right Honourable Lord Pigot and his associates.

Geo. Stratton,
Robt. Fletcher,
Henry Brooke,
Charles Floyer,
Arch. Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George,
24th August, 1776.

As it is proper that upon so interesting a subject the orders of the Company should be expressly and literally set forth, we have directed the following standing orders to be annexed to this proclamation;

"Whatever shall be agreed upon by the majority shall be esteemed "the order by which each one is to act; and accordingly every individual person, even the dissenters themselves, are to perform their "parts in the prosecution; and in so doing they do their duty and "must not be blamed."

Colonel Stuart represents to the Board, that when he went down from the Council Chamber he found Mr. Claud Russell at the main guard then under arms, and inviting the troops and others to make resistance to Government; that attempts were made to bring him by fair means before the Council, whom he thought were his proper judges; that being apprehensive of the consequences, he, the Colonel, used his endeavours to bring him before the Council, which Mr. Russell did his utmost to prevent.

Colonel Stuart further represents, that he was so much exhausted with fatigue on this occasion, that it was not in his power to state so much as he had said without a considerable pause; and as he wished to say

ſay all he had to ſay before Mr. Ruſſell, he had taken the opportunity of doing it in his preſence. The Colonel adds, that he has a ſincere eſteem for Mr. Ruſſell perſonally, but that a ſenſe of his duty muſt ſuperſede every other conſideration.

Mr. Ruſſell then addreſſes the Board, ſaying he knows not by what authority he is brought here, nor by what authority we act; to which the Board reply, that it is here convened by the majority of the Council, conſtituting the only legal government for affairs of the Eaſt-India Company upon this coaſt; and put the following queſtion to him through the Preſident:

Mr. Ruſſell. Do you acknowledge the authority of the Board here convened at this preſent time?

Anſwer. I do not.

The Preſident then informed Mr. Ruſſell that he had a letter to read to him, but he refuſing to hear it, the Preſident, by deſire of the Board, informs him that he is hereby ſuſpended the ſervice until the pleaſure of the Company ſhall be known.

Mr. Ruſſell then aſked if he was a priſoner, and being anſwered in the negative, he withdrew.

The Board then proceeded to iſſue the following letter:

To Mr. Charles Oakeley, Secretary to the Council of Fort St. George.

S I R,

YOU are hereby ordered to attend a Council now ſitting without a moment's delay.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, Your moſt obedient ſervants.
24th Auguſt, 1776.

The

The ſame to Mr. Richard Joſeph Sulivan, Secretary to the Council in its military department.

To Major Matthew Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

IT having been deemed neceſſary to arreſt Lord Pigot, he has been ſent to the Mount, where you will be pleaſed to keep him ſecured, ſhewing him every mark of reſpect and attention, until you receive further orders from us.

We have this evening taken charge of the Government with the concurrence of the whole garriſon.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George, 24th Auguſt, 1776.   G. S, R. F, H. B, C. F, A. P, F. J, G. M.

G. O.

By George Stratton, Eſquire, Preſident, Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, George Mackay, Eſquires, of Council at Fort St. George.

THE illegal, violent, and unconſtitutional conduct of Lord Pigot, Preſident of the Council, aided and aſſiſted by Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, in breaking through the poſitive orders of the Company, have compelled us, for the future welfare and preſervation of the affairs of the Company, to order Lord Pigot into arreſt, and to ſuſpend from the Company's ſervice the other three gentlemen, until the Company's pleaſure ſhall be known; and George Stratton, Eſquire, being the next ſenior ſervant to Lord Pigot, agreeable

to the orders of the Company, is appointed Prefident, and is to be obeyed as fuch; and all the officers and foldiers on this eftablifhment are hereby ordered to pay due obedience to us, the only legal reprefentatives of the Company.

Fort St. George,
24th Auguft, 1776, 10 P. M.

To Claud Ruffell, Efq.

SIR,

THE very illegal and unconftitutional conduct you have obferved in the fupport you have given to Lord Pigot, convinces us that no dependance can be placed in you; and confidering how much the affairs of the Company have fuffered through thefe means, we are reduced to the neceffity of fufpending you, and you are accordingly hereby fufpended from the fervice.

We are, Sir,

Your moft obedient fervants,

Geo. Stratton
A. Palmer
Henry Brooke
Francis Jourdan.

Fort St. George,
24th Auguft, 1776.

To Alexander Dalrymple, Efq.

SIR,

THE very illegal and unconftitutional conduct you have obferved in the fupport you have given to Lord Pigot, convinces us that no

dependance can be placed upon you; and confidering how much the affairs of the Company have fuffered through thefe means, we are reduced to the neceffity of fufpending you, and you are accordingly fufpended the fervice.

We are, Sir,

Your very obedient fervants,

GEO. STRATTON, &c.

To John Maxwell Stone, Efq.

SIR,

THE very illegal, violent, and unconftitutional conduct you have obferved, in the fupport you have given to Lord Pigot, convinces us that no dependance can be placed upon you; and confidering how much the affairs of the Company have fuffered through thefe means, we are reduced to the neceffity of fufpending you, and you are accordingly fufpended from the fervice.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George,
24th Auguft, 1776.

Your moft obedient fervants,

GEO. STRATTON, &c.

Ordered, That letters be prepared to be difpatched to-morrow morning to all the fubordinate factories, and to all the officers commanding the feveral out-garrifons, informing them, that the illegal conduct of Lord Pigot, Meffrs. Ruffell, Dalrymple, and Stone, having reduced us to the neceffity of arrefting Lord Pigot, and of fufpending the others from the Company's fervice, George Stratton, Efq. the next fenior fervant to Lord Pigot, is now Prefident of the Council of Fort St. George.

The

The attendance of Colonel Stuart at the Board being now desired, he accordingly attends, and lays before the Board the following copy of the orders issued by him to Major Horne.

Copy of the order given by Colonel Stuart to Major Horne.

SIR,

IN consequence of the powers vested in me for the public safety of the settlement at this alarming crisis, I have secured the person of Lord Pigot, and have put his Lordship under the care of Captain Lysaught, to be delivered over to you; these are therefore to order you, Major Horne, to take the person of the said Lord Pigot into your charge and custody, until you shall receive further orders from the legal Civil Government in and over the Presidency of Fort St. George, to which, as the representatives of the East-India Company, or of the Court of Directors, we are bound by our oath of fidelity to pay obedience.

His Lordship is constantly to be in the view either of yourself, or of an officer under your command, but he is not to be permitted to carry arms, nor to correspond or converse upon matters which any way concern civil or military business; and in case of refusal to conform to this order, the letters are to be stopped, and the person dismissed with whom such conversation is held.

It is needless to suggest to a man of your feeling, that Lord Pigot is to be treated with every mark of attention and respect suited to the situation which the present exigency of affairs makes necessary.

His Lordship's family and servants are to be permitted to visit and attend him, but the number limited, and at your discretion.

These

Thefe, Sir, are my orders and inftructions to you, which nothing but an order of Government, regularly fignified to you, is to fuperfede in any particular.

Given under my hand at Fort St. George, this 24th day of August, 1776.

(Signed) JAMES STUART,

By order of Government, acting commander of all the forces under the Prefidency of Fort St. George, and alfo of the garrifon within the faid Fort.

To Major Horne.

TO be delivered by Captain Lyfaught, who is hereby ordered to take an acknowledgment in writing from Major Horne that he has received Lord Pigot into his charge.

The preceding is a true copy of the original inftructions from me to Major Horne.

JAMES STUART.

Every thing being in perfect tranquillity in the garrifon, and it being midnight, it is agreed to adjourn till to-morrow morning fix o'clock.

AT A CONSULTATION. Prefent, — Monday morning, fix o'clock.

George Stratton, Efq. Prefident and Governor.

Henry Brooke	Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

Read and approved the proceedings of the laft confultation.

Meffrs. Oakely and Sulivan attend the Board in confequence of the orders iffued to them laft night, and inform us, that being out of town, they

they did not receive their refpective orders until the Council had adjourned, and beg leave to addrefs the Board in the following joint minute:

After the members of the Board, who voted againft the fufpenfion or Meffieurs Stratton and Brooke, had feparated themfelves from the reft of the Council, and had protefted againft their proceedings as illegal, we thought it incumbent on us to enter a minute on the records, containing our particular reafons for acting under the Prefident Lord Pigot and the Gentlemen of Council who remained; we conceived it did not belong to us to judge of the propriety or the legality of the proceedings on which the fufpenfion was grounded, but whilft his Lordfhip continued Prefident of the Council, and was acknowledged as fuch even by thofe members who had withdrawn themfelves, we confidered him as the only perfon who could legally affemble the Council, and that no act of Government could be made unlefs the Council were fo affembled.

Thefe being our fentiments, we determined to continue in our refpective ftations under the orders of Lord Pigot and the Gentlemen who remained with him; and from the time we came to that refolution, we are confcious that we acted moft faithfully in our feparate trufts. We had no communication with the feceding members, nor had we the leaft knowledge or idea of thofe intentions which they afterwards put in execution.

Proceeding upon the principles we have before mentioned, when the Gentlemen now at the Board poffeffed themfelves of all the powers or government, and proceeded formally to declare Lord Pigot divefted of his office, and to elect another Prefident in his room; without taking upon ourfelves to judge of the propriety of the meafure, which we are clear is no part of our province, we determined, as zealous and faithful fervants of the Company, to acknowledge and obey the orders of the

prefent Government; being fatisfied in our own minds, that, by fuch conduct only in their fervants, the Company's affairs can be preferved in order, until the Court of Directors fhall have fignified their pleafure upon the late proceedings.

CHA^S. OAKELEY.
R. J. SULIVAN.

Ordered, That the Secretaries do immediately fummon the civil and military fervants of the Company, and the other inhabitants of this Settlement, to attend at the Fort-Houfe at eleven o'clock.

Ordered, That the following general orders be immediately iffued by this Board to all the fubordinate fettlements and out-garrifons under this Prefidency.

G. O. *Fort St. George, 25th Auguft, 1776.*

By George Stratton, Efquire, Prefident, Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, George Mackay, Efquires, of Council at Fort St. George.

The illegal, violent, and unconftitutional conduct of Lord Pigot, late Prefident of the Council, aided and affifted by Meffieurs Ruffell, Dalrymple, and Stone, in breaking through the pofitive orders of the Company, have compelled us, for the future welfare and prefervation of the affairs of the Company, to order Lord Pigot into arreft, and to fufpend from the Company's fervice the other three Gentlemen until the Company's pleafure fhall be known. And George Stratton, Efquire, being the next fenior fervant to Lord Pigot, is, agreeably to the orders of the Company, appointed Prefident, and is to be obeyed as fuch. And all the officers and foldiers upon this eftablifhment, are hereby commanded to pay due obedience to our orders figned by ourfelves, or our Secretary, we, the majority of the Council, being the only legal reprefentatives of the Company.

Letters

Letters being prepared, agreeable to the Board's resolution of last night, to the Chiefs and Councils of Mazulipatam, Vizagapatam, Ganjam, and Cuddalore, enclosing copy of the Proclamation to be published at each Settlement; the same are now signed, and ordered to be sent immediately.

To Charles Smith, Esquire, Chief and Council of Ganjam.

GENTLEMEN,

THE violent and illegal proceedings of Lord Pigot, and Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, having obliged us to arrest the person of Lord Pigot, and suspend the other three gentlemen, we have named George Stratton, Esquire, next senior servant of the Company, sident of the Council. You are therefore hereby ordered to pay due obedience to us, the majority of the Council, being the only legal representatives of the Company.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your affectionate friends,

STRATTON and Council.

P. S. Enclosed is a copy of a Proclamation to be published at your Settlement.

The same was wrote to the other subordinates.

Ordered, That the Secretary do forthwith transmit to all officers, commanding garrisons and detachments on this coast, copies of the proclamation, to be by them published to all under their respective commands.

Resolved, That the following letter be written and dispatched express to Major Horne, commanding the artillery at the Mount.

To

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

S I R,

Mr. Claud Ruſſell having laſt night made attempts to get the main guard under arms, and as he and his aſſociates may endeavour to ſend letters to the out garriſons, we requeſt you would endeavour to prevent their conveying papers to Lord Pigot's hand to be ſigned by him, or their holding correſpondence with him, whilſt he is under your charge, unleſs in your own preſence. As your laſt reſource, in any attempt to reſcue Lord Pigot, his life muſt anſwer for it; and this you are to ſignify to him.

Fort St. George, 25th Aug. 1776. STRATTON and Council.

P. S. The Nabob has been applied to for a party of horſe to be put under your command, and they are for the purpoſe of conveying quick intelligence to us, and for ſuch other purpoſes as you ſhall think neceſſary. We truſt to your making ſuch a diſpoſition of the force under your command, as to prevent the poſſibility of a ſurpriſe, or the ſucceſs of any attempt that may be made by Lord Pigot and his aſſociates.

STRATTON and Council.

Reſolved alſo, That the following letter be wrote to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

S I R,

WE ſend you herewith a proclamation, which you will read at the head of the troops. We truſt you will make ſuch a diſpoſition of the troops, as to prevent inſult from any quarter, and to ſecure the fort and garriſon of Tanjore, by ordering the battalions now in the country to draw nearer to the garriſon whenever you judge it neceſſary, and to

give the earlieſt intimation of every circumſtance deſerving our notice. You will correſpond with Colonel James, commanding at Trichinopoly, for the mutual ſecurity of both places. This we give only as a general caution, not that we have any reaſon to apprehend any diſturbances, every thing being thoroughly ſettled and in perfect tranquility here; and you may aſſure the Rajah of our protection and firmeſt ſupport.

We are, &c.

Fort St. George, STRATTON and Council.
25th Auguſt, 1776.

The Board now proceed to take into conſideration the conduct of Mr. Richard Lathom, Chief of Cuddalore, who they underſtand was ſummoned, for the firſt time ſince his arrival at the Preſidency, about twelve days ago, by the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, on the evening of the 22d ultimo, to attend the Council the next morning, after the illegal attempt to ſuſpend Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke; and finding, on enquiry, that none of the proceedings of Lord Pigot, Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, are in any of the public offices, or in charge of either of the Secretaries or their aſſiſtants, the Board deem it neceſſary to put the following queſtions to Mr. R. J. Sulivan, the military Secretary, who attended Lord Pigot and the other four gentlemen at their meeting on the 23d ultimo.

Mr. Secretary Sulivan. Did you attend at the meeting of Lord Pigot, Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, held on the 23d ultimo,?

Anſwer. I did, by their order.

Queſtion. Was Mr. Lathom preſent at the delivery and peruſal of the letter of proteſt ſigned by Mr. Stratton and the ſix other members, compoſing the majority of the Council, and addreſſed to Lord Pigot, Meſſrs.

Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, dated and delivered to thoſe gentlemen on the 23d ultimo. ?

Anſwer. Mr. Lathom was preſent, and ſitting as a member at that meeting.

Queſtion. Did Lord Pigot, Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, come to any reſolution upon the ſaid letter of proteſt on the day it was delivered?

Anſwer. The proteſt was delivered to Lord Pigot on the morning of the 23d ultimo, when it was read and entered without any remark; it was not till the evening that Lord Pigot and the other gentlemen came to a reſolution thereon.

Queſtion. What reſolution did Lord Pigot, Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, come to on the evening 23d ultimo upon the ſaid letter of proteſt?

Anſwer. They came to the reſolution of ſuſpending from the Company's ſervice Meſſrs. Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors ſhould be known; and of putting Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher under arreſt, for being concerned in circulating letters, tending to excite and cauſe mutiny and ſedition among the troops in this garriſon; and to appoint Colonel James Stuart to the chief command of the forces under this preſidency.

Queſtion. What further orders did they iſſue?

Anſwer. They ordered me to write letters of ſuſpenſion to the four gentlemen before-named; they ordered Captain Wood, the town Major, to ſerve the letter of arreſt upon Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher; Lieutenant Prendergaſt to wait upon Colonel Stuart, with the general orders appointing him to the chief command of the forces; and they further ordered Mr. Secretary Oakely and me to ſtop the diſpatch of the Tappals.

Queſtion.

Queſtion. Do you recollect what paſſed between Lord Pigot, or any of his aſſociates, and Mr. Bromley, the Notary Public, upon or after the delivery of the ſaid proteſt?

Anſwer. On the morning of the 23d, Mr. Bromley, Notary Public, came into the conſultation room, where Mr. Ruſſell, Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Lathom, to the beſt of his recollection, were ſitting, and not finding Lord Pigot there, he went into a private apartment, where he was informed his Lordſhip was; and there, I ſhould imagine, he delivered to his Lordſhip the letter of proteſt. In the afternoon Mr. Bromley was ſent for by Lord Pigot and the abovenamed gentlemen, and having attended in conſequence, his Lordſhip took him into a private apartment, when he had ſome converſation with him. Sometime afterwards I heard a noiſe on the outſide of the conſultation room door, and Lord Pigot threatened to ſend for the Sheriff, and put ſome perſon or other into confinement, but for what I could not underſtand, the door of the room being, I believe, ſhut at the time. His Lordſhip afterwards came into the conſultation room, and Mr. Bromley being ordered in likewiſe, he was aſked who had given him orders to circulate the letter of proteſt, and what thoſe orders were? This Mr. Bromley declined anſwering, ſaying, as Notary Public, he was bound by oath to keep the ſecret of his client; that, from the nature of his office, he was obliged to act in the manner he had acted with reſpect to the letter of proteſt; that he was totally unacquainted with the merits of the cauſe, and therefore, having acted no otherwiſe than in his notorial capacity, he humbly apprehended he was not liable to any kind of puniſhment. The criminality of circulating letters, however, of the above nature, to officers in garriſon, and thereby exciting a mutiny among the troops, was warmly urged to him, as well as the difference between what appeared to the Board the real duty of a Notary Public, and the line of conduct he had taken. In ſhort, after much talk on the ſubject, the Board took Mr. Bromley's word of honour that he would be forthcoming whenever they ſhould think proper to ſend for him, he having firſt acquainted them, that he received the letter of proteſt at Sir Ro-

bert Fletcher's houſe from the gentlemen whoſe names were ſigned to it. This, to the beſt of my remembrance, is what paſſed between Lord Pigot, Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, upon and after the delivery of the proteſt. The ſcene of hurry and confuſion that matters were then involved in, as well as what has ſince happened, may very probably have driven ſome trifling circumſtances from my memory; thoſe any way material I think I have recollected.

Queſtion. Were Lord Pigot and the above four gentlemen unanimous in the above reſolutions?

Anſwer. They were unanimous.

The Board are unanimouſly of opinion, that Mr. Richard Lathom having concurred in opinion with Lord Pigot, Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, for the illegal attempt to ſuſpend Meſſrs. Floyer, Jourdan, Palmer, and Mackay, and in the reſolution for putting Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher under arreſt, and thereby admitting the legality of the ſuppoſed ſuſpenſion of Meſſrs. Stratton and Brooke on the 22d ultimo, as well as his concurring in the other meaſures above recited in the examination of Mr. Sulivan, is deſerving of cenſure from this Board, and of immediate ſuſpenſion from the ſervice.

It is therefore unanimouſly reſolved, that Mr. Richard Lathom be hereby ſuſpended the ſervice until the Company's pleaſure ſhall be known; and that the following letter be ſent to him.

To Richard Lathom, Eſq.

SIR,

AS we find that you have joined Lord Pigot, the late Preſident, in the illegal meaſures which have been adopted for the depriving the majority of the Board of the government, we think proper to ſuſpend you from the Company's ſervice, and you are accordingly hereby ſuſpended until the Company's pleaſure ſhall be known.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, 25th Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

STRATTON and Council.

Resolved, That the President be desired to write the following letters to his Highness the Nabob, and to the Rajah of Tanjore.

To his Highness Navaub Waulaujau, Umeer-ul-Hind, Omdut-ul Mulk, Ausuph ud Dowlah, Unwar ud-dien Cawn Behauder, Zupher Jung, Sepoy Salaur, Subadar of the Carnatic Payen Ghaut.

May it please your Highness,

THE unconstitutional, violent, and illegal conduct of the late President Lord Pigot, aided and abetted by Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, have reduced the majority of the Council, for the preservation and welfare of the Company's affairs, to put the said President into arrest, and to suspend the other four Gentlemen the service, and by this measure the Government has devolved upon me. The Council join with me in assuring your Highness of our firm resolution to shew your Highness every mark of attention, respect, and support.

I have the honour to be

May it please your Highness,

Your Highness's most sincere, most obedient,

Fort St. George, and most humble servant,

26th August, 1776. GEO. STRATTON.

To the Rajah of Tanjore.

SIR,

THE unconstitutional, violent, and illegal conduct of the late President Lord Pigot, aided and abetted by Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, have reduced the majority of the Council, for the preservation and welfare of the Company's affairs, to put the said President into arrest, and suspend the other four Gentlemen the Company's service, and by this measure the Government has devolved upon me.

The

The Council join with me in assuring you of our firm resolution to shew you every mark of attention and support.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Fort St. George, Your most obedient and most humble servant,

25th August, 1776. GEO. STRATTON.

Wrote the following letter to the Officer commanding Captain Kelly's battalion at Conjeveram.

To the Officer commanding Captain Kelly's battalion at Conjeveram.

SIR,

WE the President and Council command you to obey no orders that you may receive but such as are signed by us.

It is necessary to inform you, that on account of the illegal and unconstitutional conduct of Lord Pigot, Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, the former is in arrest, and the three latter are suspended from the service until the Company's pleasure shall be known.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, Your most obedient servants.

[illegible] August, 1776.

You will acknowledge the receipt of this as soon as possible.

Wrote a letter, to the same purport as the foregoing, to Captain Mackerel at Chingleput.

Received the following letter from Major Horne, in reply to our letter of this day's date.

To

To George Stratton, Esq. &c. Gentlemen of Council.

I am this moment favoured with your orders of this day's date, and have alſo to acknowledge a letter I received about twelve o'clock laſt night, and ſhall obſerve the inſtructions. Mr. Ruſſell, Mr. Dalrymple, and Mr. Lathom, have been here, and have been informed of the purport of your orders, and Sir Edward Hughes, to all of whom I have ſhewn ſuch attention as was due to Gentlemen. As they have not, in any reſpect, had any further intercourſe with his Lordſhip than a complimentary viſit, I am in no apprehenſion of any force on this coaſt being able, if inclined, to reſcue his Lordſhip; and he expreſſes a particular ſatisfaction at being under my charge, as he is to be under no reſtraint at all; and as far as I can, with regard to my inſtructions being firſt complied with, ſhall pay his Lordſhip every attention and mark of reſpect in my power.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Mount,
25th Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

MATW. HORNE.

The Board being deſirous to ſhew every poſſible attention to Sir Edward Hughes, as Commander of his Majeſty's ſhips in India, the Preſident was deſired to requeſt his preſence at his Board, with which requeſt Sir Edward Hughes immediately complied; and being ſeated, the Preſident explained to him the proceedings of the Council, in reſuming the executive powers of this Government, which had been uſurped by Lord Pigot and his aſſociates; and informed Sir Edward Hughes, that for his further ſatisfaction he ſhould have the peruſal or copy of the whole, or ſuch part of the Board's proceedings, as he may think neceſſary for his information of the motives which have reduced the Board to the abſolute neceſſity of adopting theſe meaſures, for the general ſafety of the Company's poſſeſſions on this Coaſt. The Preſident added,

added, in the name of the Board, that he hoped for a continuance of aſſiſtance from him as Commander of his Majeſty's ſhips, whenever this Government ſhould deem it neceſſary to apply to him for it. Whereupon Sir Edward Hughes requeſted to have copies of the Proclamation and Commiſſion of Government, and withdrew.

Ordered, That the Secretary do forthwith prepare copies of the above papers to be ſent to Sir Edward Hughes.

Received, at eight o'clock this evening the following letter from Major Horne:

To George Stratton, Eſq. &c. Gentlemen of Council.

MY Lord Pigot has juſt now ſignified his deſire to ſup this evening, and remain at the large houſe at the Mount, in company with his family, and that an officer with a guard may attend him; the officer to be conſtantly with him; I muſt requeſt you will favour me with orders whether I may allow his requeſt.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Mount,
25th Auguſt, 1776. MATW. HORNE.

To which letter the following reply was immediately made:

To Major Matthew Horne, Commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

We have this inſtant received your letter of this date, and in reply are to acquaint you, that Lord Pigot's requeſt to you, to be removed from his preſent place of reſidence, cannot be complied with.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George,
25th Auguſt, 1776. STRATTON and Council.

The Prefident informs the Board, that he this morning took charge of the balance in the cafh cheft, which is as follows:

Pagodas — —
Fanams — —

The Prefident and Mr. Brooke being Members of the Committee of Treafury, refolved, that Mr Floyer, as the third fenior Member of the Prefidency, be alfo a Member thereof during his continuance at the Prefidency.

An account balances of the Treafury is now delivered in by the Sub -Treafurer, and is as follows:

The Prefident acquaints the Board, that he underftands, from a memorandum in the hands of the Shroff, that the late Prefident, Lord Pigot, has in his poffeffion bills upon the Soucars for the following fums:

A Bill upon Mr. Edward Monckton for 30,000 Pagodas, due the 8th of April laft, being in part of a Kift for the Jagueer.

A Bill upon Jafing, for Pagodas 1,43,936, due 30th July laft, of which there is ftill due, Pagodas 1,25,267.

A Bill upon Dunaroy and Jafing, for the Poonamallee Kift, Pagodas 18,350, due 20th Auguft, of which there is ftill due Pagodas 4350.

A Bill upon Jafing, for the Jagueer, Pagodas 124,000, due the of which there is ftill due Pagodas 1,05,000.

Colonel Stuart having requefted to attend the Board, in order to lay fome information before them, relative to his own fituation fince he was appointed to the chief command of the forces by Lord Pigot, Meffrs. Ruffell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom; the Colonel is called in, and lays before the Board copy of his letter to Lord Pigot dated yefterday, and requefts permiffion to mention to the Board what paffed on the occafion.

To Lord Pigot.

Fort St. George, 24th Auguſt, 1776;
Seven o'clock in the morning.

My LORD,

AS I am very imperfectly informed of the ſteps which have led to the honour conferred on me yeſterday, and not thinking myſelf entitled to a ſeat in Council, as matters are at preſent circumſtanced, I hope it will be agreeable to your Lordſhip, to allow me this day to peruſe the conſultations, or other papers paſſed in Council, on occaſion of theſe unhappy differences. I doubt not but your Lordſhip will find this requeſt reaſonable, becauſe the practice of this ſervice gives ſuch information to the perſon commanding the forces from his ſeat in Council. I do not deſire to put your Lordſhip to the trouble of ordering copies for my uſe, the Secretary need only point out to me what is proper for my information; for I wiſh to act from information, ſo as to do my duty to my Honourable Employers, according to my oath of fidelity, for the public ſervice, and with honour to myſelf. I truſt therefore your Lordſhip will be pleaſed to agree to this requeſt before I am called upon to execute any public act of authority.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient and very humble ſervant,

JAMES STUART.

I delivered this paper to his Lordſhip at the Garden-houſe immediately after breakfaſt. His Lordſhip read it attentively, and objected to the laſt part of it, as it had the appearance of a bargain before I was to do my duty; he gave me no ſatisfactory anſwer as to the communication requeſted, though I waited at home from nine o'clock to one, in expectation to be called for that purpoſe. When I went to dine at the

the admiralty with Lord Pigot, I again renewed the converſation, and urged the reaſonableneſs of my requeſt; I obſerved, that to treat me otherwiſe, it was improper, from my rank and ſtation, as it was forcing me to execute orders blindfolded; however that it was in his Lordſhip's power to refuſe it, and that I knew my duty, and would do it. I was ſummoned to attend Council that evening at ſix o'clock, when, in the council room, much converſation paſſed on various matters, and I again urged to his Lordſhip, in preſence of Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone and Lathom, the propriety of giving me communication of what had paſſed, but to no effect. In particular I recollect, that great pains were taken to obtain a public acknowledgement of the authority of that part of the Council then aſſembled, by my ordering officially the Adjutant-General to publiſh to the army the orders of the 23d, whereby I was appointed Commander in Chief, and Sir Robert Fletcher was put under arreſt.

Reſolved, That Colonel Stuart, as acting Commander in Chief of the forces during the preſent indiſpoſition of Sir Robert Fletcher, and alſo as Commandant of this garriſon, do conſtantly attend this Board, that he may be ready to give his advice and aſſiſtance in matters regarding his ſtation.

The Preſident acquaints the Board, that for the more expeditious conveying of letters and intelligence between this and the Mount, he had applied to the Nabob for a few of his horſemen, and that his Highneſs had in conſequence ſent twelve for that purpoſe; ſix of which the Preſident had ordered to remain here, and the ſame number at the Mount, of which major Horne is to be informed.

The Board adjourn till to-morrow eight o'clock.

AT

AT A CONSULTATION, 26th August, 1776.

Monday, 26th August, 1776.

P R E S E N T,

George Stratton, Esq. President.

Henry Brooke	Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

Read and approved the proceedings of the 25th.

Read the following letter from Major Horne to Mr. Secretary Sulivan of this day's date.

To Richard J. Sulivan, Esq. Military Secretary.

SIR,

I HAVE received your letter of yesterday, and have, in consequence of the direction it contains, caused the proclamation that accompanied it to be read at the head of the troops belonging to this Cantonment. At the same time I received your letter, I received one from the Board respecting Lord Pigot's remaining where he now is.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Mount,
26th August, 1776.

MATW. HORNE.

Read the following letter from Mr. Charles Mordaunt, of this day's date, addressed to George Stratton, Esq. Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esqrs.

To George Stratton, Esquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Flover, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, George Mackay, Esquires.

GENTLEMEN,

AS I feel myself in duty bound to acknowledge the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, and him only, as Governor and President of Fort St. George, I am compelled, by my allegiance to the Company, and by the honour of a Gentleman, to declare my opinion, that unless his commission were cancelled by the authority from which it was derived, obedience to your orders were a direct violation of the principles I profess.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Fort St. George,
26th August, 1776.

CHARLES MORDAUNT.

The Board hesitate not a moment, in the consideration of the foregoing letter from Mr Charles Mordaunt, to declare their entire disapprobation at his presuming to arraign and set at defiance the conduct of this Board.

It is therefore unanimously resolved, That Mr. Mordaunt be suspended the service; and the Secretary is hereby ordered to signify to him, that he stands suspended accordingly, until the pleasure of the Honourable Court of Directors shall be known; and that Mr. Mordaunt be ordered to deliver over to Mr. James Call his office of agent for Seapoy Half Mounting, to which office we do now appoint him.

Ordered, That the Secretary do notify to Mr. James Call his appointment to that office, and that he be directed to receive charge thereof immediately.

The

The President informs the Board, that he received a visit this morning from Sir Edward Hughes, accompanied by Captain Walters, of his Majesty's ship the Salisbury: That Sir Edward repeated his request to be furnished with a copy of the proclamation read to him yesterday at the Board, and observed to the President, that if the fort would salute his Majesty's flag, he would return it with an equal number of guns in honour of this Government.

Orders were therefore given immediately for a salute of fifteen guns, which was returned with an equal number by Sir Edward Hughes from his Majesty's ship the Salisbury.

The Board, on reading over the proceedings of Council, 22d instant, observe, that several material circumstances have been omitted, and others inserted, which require explanation; but as it is their inclination and desire, that every matter should be stated clearly and truly as it hath passed, and not otherwise, they here find it necessary, for the information of the Honourable Court of Directors, to make some observations upon that as well as upon the subsequent day's consultation.

Observation 1. Lord Pigot's charge against Messieurs Stratton and Brooke on the 22d instant, was founded on an act that the whole majority of the Board had resolved upon; consequently those gentlemen who composed the majority, and had not signed the order to the Secretary, though they declared repeatedly they were determined so to do, were equally liable to this pretended suspension with the others.

Observation 2. Although the majority had not an opportunity of signing the order to the Secretary, being prevented by the very extraordinary behaviour of Lord Pigot, in snatching it from Mr. Brooke, yet they unanimously concurred, when the draught was written, in the necessity of giving it, and of their intention to sign it when it was copied fair.

Observ.

Obfervation 3. Lord Pigot moved for the fufpenfion of Meffieurs Stratton and Brooke immediately after producing the charge againft them, excluded their votes, but voted himfelf, though the accufer, and carried it by his cafting voice. This was evidently contrary to the rules and principles of the conftitution of the fervice, as well as thofe of equity and juftice.

Obfervation 4. Before however Lord Pigot had made his motion for the fufpenfion of Meffieurs Stratton and Brooke, Mr. Jourdan moved, and was feconded by Mr. Mackay, that the Council fhould be adjourned till the next morning at 10 o'clock, which motion fhould have taken place before any other, and fhould have been determined, either affirmatively or negatively, before his Lordfhip's motion could be put; his Lordfhip would not hear of the motion for adjournment, but hurried through his own, as has been already obferved, his friends having been prepared before hand, and then, of his own authority, adjourned the Council, although a majority of the Board defired he would keep the chair.

Obfervation 5. A minute was given in by Mr. Stratton, on the motion made by the Prefident for fufpending him and Mr. Brooke; but as it contained a negative on the motion, Lord Pigot would not allow its being entered on the proceedings of that day; neither would he permit to be recorded a proteft given in at the time by thofe gentlemen againft the illegality of his conduct, and that of his adherents, who voted for their fufpenfion.

Obfervation 6. In this manner having, as he imagined, got rid of the votes of two of the majority, he, on the 22d, ordered the Secretary to fend a fpecial fummons round to all the Council, Meffieurs Stratton and Brooke excepted, defiring their attendance the next morning: That, however, which was moft worthy of remark, in the fummons was the name of Mr. Lathom, Chief of Cuddalore, and a member, it is

2 true,

true, at that time, of government, but one who had been here for many days, without being ſummoned to attend Council. This ſhews evidently that Lord Pigot was predetermined in his plan, and had ſo concerted it with his aſſociates, as to bring matters to that criſis, before Mr. Lathom made his appearance, as to be certain of a majority of the Board, even if the friends of Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke ſhould have attended after the illegal and arbitrary effort to deprive thoſe gentlemen of their ſeats in Council.

The Board having attentively deliberated on the ſubject of a letter to be written to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, on the preſent ſituation of affairs at this ſettlement, it is unanimouſly reſolved to addreſs him in manner following; and as he may obtain ſome further information from a peruſal of the Board's proceedings of the 20th and 22d inſtant, together with the foregoing explanatory notes, agreed that copies of them do accompany our letter.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's ſhips in the Eaſt-Indies.

SIR,

THE violent and illegal proceedings of Lord Pigot, and Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, having obliged us to arreſt the perſon of Lord Pigot, and to ſuſpend the other four gentlemen from the Company's ſervice, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors ſhall be known; we have named George Stratton, Eſquire, next ſenior ſervant of the Company, Preſident of the Council.

We have the honour to tranſmit you copy of a proclamation, which we have thought it our indiſpenſable duty to publiſh, for the preſervation of good order and government in the affairs of the Company committed to our charge, as their only legal repreſentatives on this coaſt; and, in compliance with the requeſt you were pleaſed to make, we

enclose a copy of the minutes of consultation of the 20th and 22d instant, with explanatory notes for your information; many other proceedings of the Board give equal proofs of the unconstitutional and illegal conduct of Lord Pigot, but they are too voluminous for us to prepare at this time.

It is beyond a doubt, that his views were, in an illegal and arbitrary manner, to secure a majority, without which he knew his schemes could not be carried into execution. We found ourselves under the necessity, either of passively giving up our own rights and the known constitution of government, and of becoming accessaries in all the evil consequences that might ensue, or, by separating in the manner we did, shew, by the letter we sent by the hands of the Notary Public, that as a majority of the Council, that we were resolved, in this extremity, to maintain the constitutional rights of the Company, and to signify to all the Company's servants and dependants, that we required from them submission to our legal orders.

In consequence of this public act on our part, Lord Pigot, and the other gentlemen, proceeded immediately to the violent measure of putting the Commander in Chief in arrest, and suspending us who were of the Council. At this time we had in full view, and under our most serious consideration, the critical situation that public affairs might be brought into, by the violent and arbitrary proceedings of such a President as Lord Pigot, who, from his commission and local residence, was also commander of the fort and garrison, if time and opportunity had been left him to influence the military in the support of his illegal government. We also considered the very great probability that the remaining part of the army, not under the orders of Lord Pigot, perceiving the injustice done to the Commander in Chief, who was put under arrest for supporting the civil constitution of the Company, and well knowing that the army in general, and every impartial person in the settlement,

ſettlement, were fully convinced, that a reſolution of the majority of Council was to them the only legal act of government. We ſay therefore, that deliberating with anxious minds upon the chance of ſuch a dreadful criſis, as that the fort and garriſon of Fort St. George, with an arbitrary and paſſionate man at their head, might poſſibly be ſeparated from the reſt of the Company's poſſeſſions on this Coaſt, and that the Nabob of the Carnatic, who is the ally of the Crown of Great Britain and the Company, who intruſts himſelf, his family and fortune, to the protection of the fort, might, by our paſſive delay, be abandoned to the perſon whom he thinks his bittereſt enemy, and of whoſe conduct towards this prince we have on a former occaſion given you a particular account; we heſitated not a moment to reſume the government, in which we are warranted not only by the legal conſtitution of the Company, but the ſupreme law of neceſſity, and the ſafety of the State. This event, ſo intereſting to the welfare of the Company, has been in a great degree brought about by the good conduct and abilities which Colonel Stuart has ſhewn in the execution of our orders. We have alſo received every aſſiſtance and ſupport from the Field and other Officers; and we are extremely happy to find ſuch a diſpoſition in the military, to reſtore and maintain the conſtitution and civil government of the Company.

We beg leave to aſſure you, Sir, that we ſhall be happy on all occaſions to teſtify the reſpect and eſteem we entertain for your public and private character.

We have the honour to be,

SIR,

your moſt obedient

Fort St. George, and moſt humble ſervants,

26th Auguſt, 1776. STRATTON and Council.

Agreed to adjourn until to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.

AT

August 27.

AT A CONSULTATION, August 27th 1776.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Esq. Governor, President.

Henry Brooke | Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer | Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan | George Mackay

Read and approved the Proceedings of yesterday.

THE President acquaints the Board, that he this morning received information from Colonel Stuart, that he had reason to apprehend there was some tampering with the troops at the Mount, by persons in the interest of Lord Pigot and his associates.

The Board taking into consideration the many evils which may arise from the violent disposition manifested by many of Lord Pigot's associates since his removal to the Mount, their indefatigable pursuits in attempting to sow disaffection as well in the civil as in the military servants of the Company within this Fort, the late attempt of Mr. Claud Russell to stir up sedition amongst the troops in garrison, together with the apprehension expressed by Colonel Stuart, are circumstances which afford too great cause of suspicion, that Lord Pigot and others will persist in the measure of seducing the troops at the Mount, and that his Lordship's present residence there may furnish the ready means of creating disturbances.

The Fortress of Chingleput, distant about thirty-six miles from Fort St. George, appearing in every respect a more eligible place for Lord Pigot's residence during his being under arrest, as well in point of the salubrity of that place, as in his being removed at such a distance from this Fort, as to render any attempts that may be made by his

Lordſhip and friends, for diſturbing the public tranquillity, much more difficult than it may be in his preſent reſidence.

The Board are unaminiouſly of opinion, for the reaſons above-mentioned, that Lord Pigot ſhould as ſoon as poſſible be removed to Chingleput; and in order that his Lordſhip may meet with every poſſible mark of reſpect and attention, and for his better accommodation during his reſidence there it is agreed that a Field Officer be appointed to the command of that garriſon.

Reſolved in conſequence, That Major William Cooke be appointed to the command of Chingleput, and ordered to proceed thither immediately.

In conſequence of the foregoing reſolution the following letters are now wrote:

To Colonel Stuart.

S I R,

CONSIDERING the late attempt made by Mr. Ruſſell, the violent diſpoſition of the reſt of Lord Pigot's aſſociates, and the methods which have been uſed to tamper with the military, we hereby empower you to take any further meaſures you may judge neceſſary for the ſecurity of his Lordſhip's perſon: we are extremely deſirous to avoid every chance either of public diſturbances or riſk to Lord Pigot's life. In caſe of attempts to carry him off, we truſt you will uſe every wiſe precaution to guard againſt ſuch miſchiefs; and we hereby command all officers civil and military to obey your orders touching this important charge.

We are, &c.

Fort St. George,
27th Auguſt, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

To Major Cooke.

SIR,

HAVING appointed you to the command of Chingleput, you are accordingly to repair thither, and take upon you the command of that Fort as ſoon as poſſible.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George,
27th Auguſt, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

To Captain Mackarell.

SIR,

HAVING appointed Major Cooke to the command of Chingleput, you are hereby directed to deliver over the charge of that Fort to him.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George,
27th Auguſt, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

The Preſident lays before the Board the following Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore, to Lord Pigot, as Preſident and Governor of Fort St. George.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot.

My Lord,

I TAKE the liberty to inform you, that a talk prevails here, and I believe with ſome foundation, that a correſpondence is carried on between

between the Rajah and Marattas, and that a brother to Guligilliapah, by name Narsiganah, and one Cockajee Ponke, transacts the business with that government, and resides at Satter. They write from thence (it's said) that according to the Rajah's request, they are getting four thousand horse ready to proceed with to Tanjore. How true this may be I cannot ascertain; the Rajah has never mentioned a word of it to me.

I also beg leave to mention, that the Rajah proposes going to the dam shortly, to see how his people go on with respect to the repairs of the bank; from thence he intends to take a small circuit through part of the country: he tells me he shall be out about fourteen days. He is very desirous of my accompanying him, and to take four companies of Seapoys; if this should meet with the Right Honourable the President and Council's approbation, to whom I have wrote on the subject, I mean to take two companies from hence, and two from those doing duty in the country.

I remain with perfect respect,

My Lord,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Tanjore,
23d August, 1776.

H. HARPER.

Read also a letter from Colonel Harper, received this morning.

To the Right Honourable the President and Council of Fort St. George.

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I TAKE the liberty to inform you, that the Rajah purposes going to the dam shortly, to examine how his people go on with respect to the

the repairs of the banks, &c. from thence he intends to take a ſmall circuit through the country. He tells me he ſhall be out about fourteen days, and is very deſirous of my accompanying him, and to take four companies of Seapoys; ſhould the above meet with your approbation; I mean, if you have no objection, to take two companies from hence, and the other two from thoſe doing duty in the country.

I remain with the greateſt reſpect,

Right Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Tanjore,
24th Auguſt, 1776.

H. HARPER.

To which the following letter is ſent in anſwer:

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

WE have received your letter of the 24th. If the Rajah pleaſes to go to the Anacut, to ſee the repair of the bank, we can have no objection, but it will not be convenient that you ſhould leave the garriſon at preſent. Whenever the Rajah chooſes to go, you will ſend an eſcort with him, not exceeding the number you mention, but we think leſs might be ſufficient.

Of the two battalions divided over the Tanjore country, we wiſh you to draw within gun ſhot of your garriſon as many as can poſſibly be ſpared from the ſervice they are now employed upon.

Every thing here is in the moſt perfect tranquillity, and we are overjoyed to find the late alteration in government meets with approbation.

5 We

We desire you will send us an account of the quantity of rice and paddy you have in store for the use of the garrison.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Fort St. George,
27th August, 1776. GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

Read a letter from Captain Mackarell, commanding at Chingleput.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I HAVE been honoured with your letter of yesterday, acquainting me, that on account of the illegal and unconstitutional conduct of Lord Pigot, Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, the former is in arrest, the three latter suspended from the service, until the Honourable Company's pleasure shall be known; in consequence whereof, you command me to obey no orders but such as are signed by the President (the Honourable George Stratton, Esq.) and Council. I have likewise received your second letter and proclamation, with an order from the Honourable Board accompanying it; on receipt of which I ordered the troops under arms, read the proclamation and order of the Honourable Board to the whole garrison, and had it explained particularly to the Seapoys. I shall be very punctual in executing every order I receive from the Honourable Board.

I am, Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient Servant,

Chingleput,
26th August, 1776. TIMY. MACKARELL.

In confequence of our refolution to remove Lord Pigot to the fortrefs of Chingleput, the following letter is now wrote to Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

To Major Horne.

SIR,

WE have this day intercepted certain letters, which give us fome grounds to think there is an intention to tamper with the foldiers of this garrifon, and alfo with thofe of your corps, in favour of Lord Pigot; this obliges us to come to the refolution of removing his Lordfhip without delay to a place of more fafety, at the fame time with every attention to Lord Pigot's health and convenience.

We have for this purpofe empowered Colonel Stuart to take the meafures he thinks proper for conveying Lord Pigot in fafety to the place of his deftination.

We are informed that the Adjutant-General will be employed to receive his Lordfhip from you this night, fo foon as it can be done, without giving unneceffary alarm to Lord Pigot's family.

We have left the difpofition in the power of Colonel Stuart, who will write you particularly, and all his orders on this occafion are to be obeyed.

We are exceffively fenfible of the very great inconvenience which you and your family muft have been put to, during Lord Pigot's ftay in your houfe; we are no lefs fo of the fidelity and attention with which you have difcharged the important truft repofed in you; and we take this occafion to affure you, we fhall ever be mindful of your fervices.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, Your moft obedient fervants,
27th Auguft, 1776. GEO. STRATTON, &c. Council.

P. S. We give you this early notice to prepare for what is to happen this night, but you are not to divulge it to any one.

Received the following letter from Sir Edward Hughes:

To George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I HAVE received your letter of yesterday, with the copy of your proclamation of the 24th, and of the minutes of consultation of the 20th and 22d instant, explaining the motives of our late proceedings with respect to the putting under arrest the person of the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, the President, and of your suspending from the service of the Company, Claud Russell, A. Dalrymple, J. M. Stone, and Richard Lathom Esquires, members of Council. You are also pleased to inform me, that you had named George Stratton, Esquire, to be President of the Council, and Governor of Fort St. George, which, as your proclamation setteth forth, is according to the orders of the Company.

In reply I have to say, that as a good subject, and a hearty well-wisher to our Country and the Company, and as the known friend of all parties, it will be difficult for me to express to you my amazement and sorrow at such disagreements between them, productive of such extraordinary and unprecedented consequences.

You may be naturally led to suppose, Gentlemen, that situated as I am, and finding you in possession of the government of a Presidency, I am ordered by his Majesty to communicate with confidentially for the good of the common cause, and for the welfare and interests of the Company, I shall join you in all such measures tending to those desirable ends whenever you find proper to call on me for assistance. I am with regard,

Sir and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
and most humble servant,
EDWD. HUGHES.

Salisbury, in Madras
Roads, the 27th day
of August, 1776.

I have

I have received copy of the Commiſſion of Government.

Agreed to adjourn till 6 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Wednesday, 28th Auguſt

AT A CONSULTATION. 28th Auguſt, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Eſq; Governor, Preſident.

Henry Brooke | Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer | Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan | George Mackay.

The Minutes of laſt Conſultation read and approved.

THE Secretaries lay before the Board the following letters received by them from Mr. Dalrymple:

To Mr. Secretary Oakeley.

SIR,

I BEG to know if I am debarred free acceſs to the Company's records. I am,

SIR,

27th Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

A. DALRYMPLE.

To Mr. Secretary Sulivan.

SIR,

I BEG to know if I am debarred free acceſs to the Company's records. I am,

SIR,

27th Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

A. DALRYMPLE.

The

The Board are of opinion, that Mr. Dalrymple may be furnished with a copy of such proceedings as concern himself, but that he ought not to have access to the records in the office, of which the Secretaries are directed to inform him.

The President lays before the Board the following letters, which are now read:

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

IT is with the highest satisfaction I take this early opportunity of congratulating you on the late happy event, being assured it will redound as much to your honour and the Gentlemen concerned, as to the interest of our Honourable Employers and the public good in general; I propose paying you my respects in person soon. I am with the greatest esteem,

Honourable Sir,

Poonamalee, August 27th, 1776.

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

W^M FLINT.

To Mr. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

SIR,

THE general orders of the 25th instant from the Governor and Council I have received, and have made them public in this garrison and its dependencies. I am,

SIR,

Vellore, 27th August, 1776.

Your most obedient and humble servant,

J. FITZGERALD.

To George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I AM to inform you that Lord Pigot has claimed the protection of the King's flag, and I am in consequence to require, in his Majesty's name, that Major Horne be ordered to give his Lordship safe conduct to my ship. I find myself under the necessity of remaining with his Lordship until your orders shall arrive here, and desire therefore that they be sent to Major Horne with all convenient dispatch. I am,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

EDWD HUGHES.

Mount, 12 at Noon,
27th August, 1776.

In consequence of the resolution of yesterday for Lord Pigot's removal to Chingleput, the following general orders are now issued:

The President and Council being of opinion, that the vicinity of Lord Pigot's residence may be attended with many inconveniences, had empowered Lieutenant-Colonel Edington to remove his Lordship to Chingleput, a place from its situation very healthy, and where every personal attention would be paid him; but as Sir Edward Hughes made a request that Lord Pigot should remain at the Mount, the Board, willing to pay every respect to his request, consented for the present that he should continue there.

28th August, 1776. Sent the following letter to Major Horne, enclosing one for Lord Pigot:

To

To Major Horne.

SIR,

WE ſend you a letter for Lord Pigot, which you will be pleaſed to deliver him. If he ſhould refuſe to receive it you have a copy of it and will communicate the contents to his Lordſhip.

We are, Sir, &c.

Fort St. George.
8th Auguſt, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot.

My LORD,

WE are extremely concerned that a notion ſhould have prevailed in your Lordſhip's mind, that you were to have been removed from Gingee; and we take this opportunity of aſſuring your Lordſhip, that no ſuch idea ever did occur, or could have occurred to us.

We reſolved this morning to make your Lordſhip an offer, which we now do, of removing to any ſettlement upon the coaſt that you ſhall give a preference to, where there is a Chief and Council, provided that you pledge your word of honour to remain in quietneſs within the of ſuch ſettlement, until the Company's pleaſure concerning your Lordſhip's conduct and our's reſpectively.

If your Lordſhip ſhall be pleaſed to conſent to this propoſal, we will order the beſt houſe in ſuch ſettlement to be prepared for your reception, that every neceſſary be furniſhed you at the Company's expenſe, and that every reſpect and attention be paid to your perſon.

At the ſame time that we make the above offer to your Lordſhip, we think it neceſſary to add, that if your Lordſhip ſhould prefer em-

barking

barking for Europe in one of the Company's ſhips, we will order every accommodation in our power. We are,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient humb'e ſervants,

Fort St. George,
28th Auguſt, 1776. GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

AT A CONSULTATION, 29th Auguſt, 1776.

PRESENT,

29th Auguſt. The Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Governor, Preſident.

Henry Brooke — Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer — Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan — George Mackay.

The Preſident lays before the Board the following letter:

Honourable Sir,

LAST night about eleven o'clock I received the Board's diſpatch, together with your ſeparate letter. My Lord and Sir Edward Hughes were both at table with my family, &c. I delivered his Lordſhip the Board's letter, and Sir Edward your's. His Lordſhip read his publickly, but made no comments on it; he ſoon afterwards ſent it to Mrs. Monckton, and retired to reſt. Sir Edward ſlept here alſo, and now writes to you. Our men and officers are ſteady and quiet. I ſuppoſe this morning his Lordſhip will conſult his friends before Sir Edward leaves the Mount. As ſoon as any thing matetial occurs I ſhall immediately give information.

I am, Honourable Sir,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

Mount,
29th Auguſt, 1776. 7 A. M. MATT^W HORNE.

The

The Prefident having applied to the Secretary for the Company's general letter per Triton, with its accompanying papers, the Secretary informs the Board, that they have never been fent into his office, and therefore he conceives they are in the poffeffion of Lord Pigot.

Refolved, That the Secretary do immediately fend for the fame, through Major Horne, to Lord Pigot; as well as for other public papers which may be in his poffeffion.

The following letter is in confequence written by the Secretary to Major Horne:

To Major Matthew Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Prefident and Council to requeft you will apply to Lord Pigot for the Company's general letter per Triton, and other public papers which may be in his Lordfhip's poffeffion; but as thefe public papers may be mixed with papers af a private nature, which the Board do not wifh to read; and, as the feals on the inner apartment of the Fort-houfe remain untouched, they wifh Lord Pigot would fix on any gentlemen of fecrecy, he has confidence in, who, with the two Secretaries, may feparate the papers of a public nature from thofe of a private one, which may be taken away.

I am, Sir,

Your moft obedient fervant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Fort St. George,
29th Auguft, 1776.

Received at half paſt eleven A. M. the following letter from Major Horne, dated this morning, quarter paſt ten o'clock :

To the Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

MY Lord Pigot has juſt made a public application to me to the following purport :—that he underſtands a ſhip is to be diſpatched this day for Bengal ; that the gentlemen at Madras had informed Sir Edward Hughes and others, that his Lordſhip was not debarred the uſe of pen, ink and paper ; he therefore thought it neceſſary to write to the Governor General and Couucil by this veſſel, to inform them of his ſituation, and demanded a copy of my orders for his confinement, to tranſmit in his letter to the Governor-General and Council ; and that he might have free permiſſion to conſult with his friends on the ſituation, without any reſtraint whatever, of his affairs. I informed his Lordſhip I would immediately write to you for inſtructions on that head ; his Lordſhip replied, as the veſſel was to ſail this day, not a moment ought to be loſt, as it was but juſtice that he ſhould have an opportunity of informing the gentlemen of Bengal of his ſituation ; I have therefore to requeſt your orders on his demand as ſoon as poſſible.

I have the honour to be,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

MATTHEW HORNE.

Mount,
29th Auguſt, 1776, ¼ paſt 10 o'clock, A. M.

To which the following reply was made :

To

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

S I R,

WE have received your letter of this morning, and can have no objection to Lord Pigot's having the earlieſt opportunity of repreſenting what he pleaſes to the Governor-General and Council in Bengal; but we deſire that his Lordſhip's letters may be written, ſigned, and ſealed by himſelf, in your preſence, and delivered to Sir Edward Hughes, or to you, to be forwarded. Conſidering the violent expreſſions which we underſtand have been made uſe of the other night by ſome of his Lordſhip's friends, in the hearing of the troops, we cannot conſent to more than one of his Lordſhip's friends aſſiſting him upon the preſent occaſion; and his Lordſhip is at full liberty to make choice of whomſoever he may think proper.

You may communicate to his Lordſhip the order you received when you took charge of him from Captain Lyſaught, and give him a copy thereof.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George, GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.
29th Auguſt, 1776.

Read the following letter from Major Horne, dated this day, at five, A. M. encloſing copy of one from Sir Edward Hughes to him.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. and Preſident, Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

SIR Edward Hughes has delivered to me a letter, a copy of which I encloſe. I very readily gave him my word of honour, that I would

not deliver his Lordſhip up until his return, or advice from him; I am perſuaded I ſhall have your approbation for my having done ſo.

I am, with reſpect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

Mount, MATTHEW HORNE.
29th Auguſt, 1776, 5 A. M.

P. S. This moment your orders reſpecting my letter of this morning is arrived, with Mr. Sulivan's letter; I ſhall write again as ſoon as I have obtained an anſwer from Lord Pigot.

To Major Horne.

SIR,

BEING obliged to go to the Fort immediately, I am to requeſt of you to give me your word of honour that you will not give up the perſon of Lord Pigot, now in your charge, till my return to you, as you are well acquainted that a correſpondence between the gentlemen ſitting in the Fort as Council and myſelf is now carrying on, with reſpect to the protection his Lordſhip has claimed from me as his Majeſty's repreſentative in this country.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

Mount, (Signed) EDWARD HUGHES.
29th Auguſt, 1776.

Read the following letter from Major Cooke:

To the Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident, Governor, &c. Council Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

AGREEABLE to your orders of yeſterday I left Fort St. George, and arrived here at nine o'clock in the evening, and immediately took

upon

upon me the command of this garrison. I have the honour to be with respect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Chinglepur, WILLIAM COOKE.
28th August, 1776.

The Board calling upon the Secretaries for lists of the public business in their respective departments lying for consideration, they are accordingly produced, and it appears to be as follows:

Representation of the Commander in Chief, dated the concerning the Seapoy battalions.

Representation of ditto, concerning military regulations, dated ditto of ditto, of the necessity of removing the battalion of Europeans doing duty in this garrison to Poonamallee; with a comparative state of the sick in the said battalion, three months at Poonamallee, and three months in this garrison, dated

Committee of Circuit; its members, and instructions to be given them.

Mr. Secretary Oakeley informs the Board, that he hath not yet obtained a list of the surgeons on this establishment, and the dates of their employment in the service.

Ordered, That the Secretary do call upon the proper persons, that an exact list be forthwith made and constantly kept up correctly, in the same manner as that of the army.

The Board are desirous of going through all the business before the dispatch, but the two first representations will require more time than can at present be spared to examine the records for such references as

muſt neceſſarily be made for their information.—The repreſentation concerning the half batta, upon a review of the unavoidable expenſes of a ſubaltern officer, requiring no other reference than to the late order of Council, it is now taken into conſideration.

From the repreſentation of Colonel Stuart, and his letter accompanying it, which were delivered to the Board by Sir Robert Fletcher, the Commander in Chief, as entered in conſultation, , who has moſt earneſtly recommended the ſubject to our conſideration, it appears, that the pay of the ſubaltern officers is unequal to their expenſes, even in Madras; when it is conſidered, that in out-garriſons their ſervants all receive batta, when almoſt every neceſſary article of life muſt be conveyed to them from Madraſs at a conſiderable additional charge, it is clearly demonſtrated, that officers at the out-garriſons cannot poſſibly ſubſiſt upon their pay.—Half batta was originally allowed them in conſideration of the extra-charge of their employing coolies to and from the out-garriſons, and to the additional pay of the ſervants they muſt neceſſarily employ. The Board alſo conſidering, that the diſtreſs of ſuch officers may reduce them to the neceſſity of turning their attention from their duty to the Company, to means inconſiſtent with the characters and ſtations annexed to their commiſſion, in order to ſupport even the neceſſary diſburſements, they cannot but be unanimouſly of opinion, that the motion made by the late Preſident Lord Pigot, in conſultation, laſt, for taking from them the half batta, which had before been allowed to the officers in out-garriſons, had been hurried through the Board, inſtead of it's being ſo materially weighed and conſidered in all its conſequences as we think the nature of the ſubject required.

Reſolved therefore, That the half batta to officers and paymaſters be reſtored in thoſe out-garriſons where it had been allowed previous to the Board's orders of the 20th February 1776.

Reſolved, in conſequence of the foregoing reſolution, the following general orders ſhall be iſſued:

General Orders.

THE President and Council taking into confideration the ftate of a fubaltern officer's neceffary expenfe, calculated at the medium rate of the chief garrifons under this Prefidency, as particularly fet forth in the reprefentation figned by Colonel Stuart, and recommended by the Commander in Chief on the 19th Auguft to the Board; and being of opinion, that the diftrefs of the fubaltern officers in particular may reduce them to the neceffity of employing their time and attention to ways and means inconfiftent with their character and ftation;

Ordered, that the half batta in thofe out-garrifons where it ufed to be allowed, be from this date allowed to the officers and paymafter on this eftablifhment, on the fame footing as it ftood before the general orders of 20th February 1776.

The report of the committee of accounts, fetting forth, that the allowance to the non-commiffioned officers and private, for one day's march, proceeds on the calculation of 25 miles for one day, and that it appears infufficient, the Commander in Chief reprefenting that to be equal to two day's march of an European in this climate;

Ordered, that from this date, every cadet, non-commiffioned officer and foldier, when upon the march, be allowed at the rate of one day for every twelve miles.

Fort St. George, 29th Auguft, 1776.

THE Board next proceed to take into confideration the immediate execution of the orders of the Honourable Court of Directors relative to the Committee of Circuit, in order that this matter may undergo the leaft delay poffible by the late events, and the fufpenfion of Meffrs. Ruffell, and Dalaymple, and Lathom, who were appointed members of that Committee.

The Board taking into confideration the nomination of proper perfons for the Committee of Circuit, refer to the Company's orders on this fubject, which are as follows:

Separate

Separate Letter from England, 12th April, 1775.

" We therefore direct, that when affairs respecting Tanjore shall have been accommodated and finally adjusted, a Committee of our Council, consisting of five members, be appointed to make the circuit of the Northern Circars, &c."

When the Court of Directors gave these orders, the Council consisted of nineteen, so that there were more than sufficient for carrying on the Company's business at the Presidency, for the Chiefships, and for the Committee of Circuit. The case is now altered; for by the late change the Council is reduced to nine members on the Coast; two are gone home with leave, viz. Messrs. Dawson and Whitehill; and two others, Messrs. Cotsford and Hay, are now in England, and have the leave of the Court of Directors, for remaining there another year.—The Honourable Court of Directors in their commands of the 12th April 1775, positively direct, that no new members shall be taken into council till the number is reduced to twelve.

Letter from England, 12th April, 1775.

" Although, from a variety of circumstances, it has happened that " our Council at Fort St. George have never been reduced to the num- " ber twelve, according to our directions in the year 1769, nevertheless " it is our positive order, that no future vacancy therein be filled up by " you, even provisionally, until the Council shall be reduced to the said " number twelve, &c."

In this situation we are under the necessity of deviating from the orders of our Honourable Masters, with respect to the Committee of Circuit, or in filling up the Council beyond the number prescribed, which we think ought not to be done but in cases of necessity. After the most mature deliberation on these subjects, we are unanimously of opinion, that three vacancies

vacancies, now in the Committee of Circuit, by the ſuſpenſion of Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Lathom, be filled up by Meſſrs. Perring, Daniel, and Crawford, theſe Gentlemen being near Council, and, in our opinion very capable of ſerving the Company on this important buſineſs. The Committee will conſiſt of

Meſſrs. Johnſon,
Floyer,
Perring
Daniel,
Crawford.

Mr. Sadlier, the next ſervant on the liſt to Mr. Perring, cannot, we think, be employed, until the Board come to a determination on his conduct at Injeram.

Mr. Davidſon has the charge of employ of great truſt, which cannot at this time be transferred to another.

Mr. Morgan Williams, the next ſervant on the liſt to Mr. Davidſon, having been many years at Vizagapatam, and well acquainted with the buſineſs of that ſettlement, we think his remaining there will be abſolutely neceſſary, as both the Chief and Second are ordered on the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. John Tolland is next to Mr. Williams, but he is Perſian tranſlator.

Mr. Williams to ſucceed Mr. Perring as Second.

Ordered, that Meſſrs. Perring, Daniel, and Crawford, be wrote to, adviſing them of their appointment to the Committee of Circuit.—That Meſſrs Crawford and Daniel be directed to proceed to Vizagapatam, where they will be joined by Meſſrs. Johnſon and Perring.

Read the following letter.

To George Stratton, Esquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires.

Gentlemen,

WE the under-written servants of the Honourable East-India Company, having taken into our most serious consideration the late revolution in the Government of this place, and fearing lest it should be represented to our Honourable Masters, that this measure has been effected *with the concurrence of the civil servants,* a doctrine which we understand has been industriously propagated in this Settlement, do hold it our indispensable duty thus publickly to protest against an action, which appears directly contrary to the commissions granted by the Court of Directors to the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, and totally subversive of the constitution of this Government. Upon this evident principle, therefore, that "where authority does not exist, obedience cannot be expected," we think it incumbent on us, lest our silence should be construed into an assent of measures so totally repugnant to our feelings as men, and our duty as Company's servants, thus formally to acquaint you, that we cannot acknowledge any other but the Right Honourable Lord Pigot as Governor of Fort St. George, and President of the Council. As Members of a civil government, we cannot but consider an appeal to military force as a matter of the most dangerous tendency; and could we possibly admit the expediency of the late change, we absolutely deny the legality of the measure; but as, from the conduct of the military on that occasion, there scarce remains a doubt, but that the management of the Company's affairs must remain in the hands of you, Gentlemen, until judgment is passed on your conduct in Europe, we hesitate not a moment to offer our voluntary services in our respective stations for conducting the business of our Honourable Masters, whose interest is our first object, and to whose candour and superior judgment we submit our conduct.

The

The only favour we have to request of you, Gentlemen, is the directing your Secretary to make this letter a number of the packet by the ship Grenville, now under dispatch for Europe.

We remain, Gentlemen,

Fort St. George, Your very obedient servants,
29th August, 1766.

H. A. Craig	Eyles Irwin
R. Dr. Monroe	G. Ram
Hugh Vaughan	Wm. Sedgley
Gideon Firth	Kenelm Digby
Hugh Maxwell	John Wood
Wm. Michell	Geo. Hoar
J. Deschamps	A. Hammond
George Wynch	Tho. Welch
J. Kenworthy	Wm. Webb
Wm. H. Toriano *	M. Tudor
Geo. Jos. Hoissard	Wm. Hamilton
Geo. Savage	George Forster
Wm. Ross	Joseph Revell
Wm. Turing	T. Kingscote
J. Dutton	Tho. Ogilvie
Geo. Proctor	David Haliburton
Wm. Jackson	A. Wm. Gregory
Wm. Oram	E. Monckton
Theo. J. Taner	Francis Lind

* Erased by desire of Mrs. Toriano.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Wrote the following letter to Bengal.

Th

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esq. Govenor-General, &c. Council of Bengal, —— Fort William.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

WE wrote to your Honour, &c. on the 25th August, and have now to inform you, that we are in possession of the fort and executive powers of Government; that Lord Pigot is under arrest at the Mount, and that Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, who aided and assisted him in his arbitrary and illegal proceedings, are suspended from the Company's service until the pleasure of the Court of Directors shall be known.

From a cool and dispassionate review of the late transactions of this Government, we think it must appear evident to the world, that we long proceeded, in our conduct towards Lord Pigot, with a forbearance and moderation almost inconsistent with our public duty. It is certain we wished above all things to avoid coming to extremities, and had his Lordship been actuated by the same views, we were inclined to make very great concessions, merely for the sake of preserving harmony, until we could receive the sense of the Court of Directors upon his conduct. But when we saw a studied and uniform design to assume the whole authority of government to himself, and to make us the instruments of his will; when we perceived, by the whole course of his proceedings, and by the doctrines which he held, that his principles were to the last degree arbitrary, and that he employed them, as far as he had the power, in acts most injurious to the interests of the Company, and to the dignity of the Nabob; we then maturely considered the responsibility which vested in us, and the consequences which might ensue from a conduct so passive on our part, and hence we resolved to exert our constitutional rights, and to stop, as far as we were able, the progress of such destructive designs.

 The

The extracts of our minutes, which we had the honour of tranſmitting you by the Swallow, will have particularly informed you of the conduct of Lord Pigot, in carrying into execution the orders of the Company relative to Tanjore.

It was not without an infinite degree of concern we found his Lordſhip had taken that line with the Nabob, in the proſecution of the buſineſs intruſted to his charge, as not only to infringe his ſacred rights, as lawful Nabob of the Carnatic, guarantied to him and his poſterity, by the treaty of Paris, but likewiſe to fill his mind with real apprehenſions for the ſafety of his perſon.

On this ſubject however you have been fully adviſed. The Nabob's repreſentations to us, and to Sir Edward Hughes, complaining of Lord Pigot, were entered in the proceedings that waited on you by the Swallow. A review of them however will be neceſſary, as in forming your opinion of the acts of this government, it will be neceſſary your Honour, &c. ſhould draw to your attention the uniform and ſteady plan of arbitrary meaſures which his Lordſhip has undeviatingly purſued ſince his arrival amongſt us.

To ſay that we met his Lordſhip with a firm determination to co-operate with him, and to aſſiſt him to the utmoſt of our ability, in conducting the affairs of this Government, would be but a partial repreſentation of our conduct. We went further, we undertook the adminiſtration of affairs with hearts and hands ſanguine to ſupport him, and with a reſolution to give up many of our juſt rights, rather than not act in concert and unanimity for the benefit of our Employers. But here we muſt confeſs aroſe the firſt cauſe of thoſe evils, which has ſince ſo alarmingly ſhewn themſelves throughout the conduct of Lord Pigot. Had we ſtopped them in their infancy we had done right; but relying too much on the juſtice of our cauſe, and hoping that *forbearance and moderation* would in the end convince him of his error, we allowed them, though not paſſively, to accumulate to that degree,

 that

that it at length became essential to the well being of the Company's affairs, that they should be rooted out entirely.

On the former part of the conduct of Lord Pigot, that is, to the time our last advices were dispatched to you by the Swallow—we shall here remain silent—Your Honour, &c. will have already formed your opinion on that. It is only necessary for us therefore to take notice of that part of it which brought the Company's affairs to that dangerous and critical situation from which we have endeavoured to retrieve them.

The first act of his Lordship after the signing the letter to your Honour, &c. 13th July, was the falsifying the records of the Company. The circumstance, though of no material consequence, plainly indicated his resolution of acting in such manner as he should think proper; it was as follows: the day our letter to you by the Swallow was read, we the majority of the Board directed the addition of two paragraphs to the letter, but Lord Pigot *requesting* they might not be added, we entered a minute which was twice read to this effect:

" *That the President requesting the paragraphs should not be added, the majority out of compliment to him, resolved not to insert them in the letter, but, to enter them on the proceedings of that day for the information of the Government-General at Bengal.*" These words were however erased the next day by his own hand without our knowledge, and the following inserted, " The President objecting thereto, they stand only in this place."

This alteration in the records which he never communicated to us, is a strong mark of the illegal conduct of Lord Pigot; and the consequences which might ensue are too obvious to require enlarging upon.

But

But indeed when we reflect upon his saying at the Board, he would *suppress* or *destroy* when he should think proper any letter addressed to the President and Council; and on his repeated declarations when seated as President at the head of his Council, "That the late Act of Parliament for the better management of the affairs of the East-India Company *was a vile act*, and that the instructions of the Company to the Governor-General and Council, which are equally binding on this Presidency, *were vile instructions*, we had every reason to apprehend his whole conduct would be governed by such principles.

In our proceedings relative to the circuit of the Northern Circars, and the Company's Jaghire, you will observe, that the Court of Directors ordered that the Committee named for that service should proceed upon it as soon as affairs respecting Tanjore should be accommodated and finally adjusted. The Court of Directors thought this service important, and we were consequently very desirous of beginning upon it early, as you will perceive by the proceedings, but Lord Pigot and the gentlemen of the minority threw every obstacle in our way.

On the 26th July Mr. Jourdan moved, that the Committee should proceed immediately; and after much debate it was at length agreed by a majority, that they should set out the 15th of August; this was afterwards prolonged to the 31st, for the convenience of the Members of the Committee. Mr. Russell and Mr. Dalrymple were unwilling that any time should be fixed for their departure, and a passage in a letter from Mr. Russell on this occasion, gave rise to a most extraordinary motion from Lord Pigot, which you will perceive on reference to the minutes of the 5th August, and we beg your attention to it, as it strongly marks the arbitrary views by which he was actuated.

On the 9th of July Colonel Stuart was appointed to the command of Tanjore, contrary to the opinion of Lord Pigot; it was not notified to Colonel Stuart, by order, until the 31st of the same month,

and that too on a second motion, when he was directed to hold himself in readiness to proceed thither. Instructions were afterwards prepared by the Commander in Chief for Colonel Stuart, to which Lord Pigot had no particular objection ; he indeed desired to have them to consider and make additions to if necessary, but nothing further. These instructions were not however brought again by him to the Board, but the Commander in Chief drew out fresh ones more full and explicit, which (being indisposed himself) he sent to the Secretary, that they might be laid before the Board for their consideration.

It was then we perceived the evident intention of Lord Pigot in withholding the former instructions ; nay, he declared to us, that he never would consent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, unless Mr. Russell was ordered to proceed thither likewise, and even moved that Mr. Russell should be permitted to go to Tanjore, conformable to his first appointment.

Lord Pigot having already had our sentiments in full on this subject, and particularly on the propriety of Mr. Russell's setting out with the Committee of Circuit on an appointed day, could mean nothing less by this than to drive us into a measure, contrary to our declared opinion, founded, as we conceive, on the firmest grounds, the orders of the Company.

Failing however in his aim, the motion being carried against him, we desired he would put a question for the approval of Colonel Stuart's instructions, but, on his refusing to do so, the Council was adjourned until the next day, when Lord Pigot again refusing to put the question. We had no other mode left but to proceed to extremities, or to enter our opinions without any question being regularly moved.

We wished to avoid extremities, and therefore proposed to give our opinion separately, "That the instructions should be taken into consideration ;"

ration, but after the opinions of two of the members had been taken, he ordered the Secretary not to write down any more, *as he would not suffer the matter to be farther agitated.* A member of the minority however observing that such opinions were nothing more than minutes, he permitted the Secretary to proceed. We then approved of the instructions, and after they were copied fair, presented them to his Lordship to be signed, but this he *positively refused,* and the Council was therefore adjourned to avoid the disagreeable consequences which were evidently impending.

Still proceeding upon the principle of moderation, when the Council assembled the next day, knowing that Lord Pigot would not sign the instructions, the majority proposed, in a minute, which they delivered in, that they should be signed by the Secretary, *by order of the Council.* In consequence, an order was written by the majority, and transcribed fair to be signed.—Messrs. Stratton and Brooke, first affixed their signatures, and were passing it round to us, for the same purpose, when his Lordship snatched the paper out of Mr. Brooke's hand, and in the same instant a paper out of his pocket, read a charge against Messrs. Stratton and Brooke, "For being guilty of an act, subversive of the authority of "government, and tending to introduce anarchy, in the signing orders "to the Secretary, to give instructions to Colonel Stuart, which have "not been approved and passed by the President and Council."

We plainly saw the intention of his Lordship, and therefore it was moved by Mr. Jourdan, and seconded by Mr. Mackay, that the Council should adjourn till the next morning; but, contrary to all rule and order, the President would not put the question for adjournment, but moved, a resolution "That George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Esqrs. "be now suspended from the Company's service, until the Company's "pleasure shall be known," and by precluding their votes, and voting himself, although the accuser carried it for the pretended suspension by his casting voice.

For the particulars of this we muft beg your Honours, &c. will be referred to our minutes, which now wait on you, together with a paper containing the obfervations which we made upon them, when we refumed the executive powers of government.

It is beyond a doubt, that his Lordfhip's views were, in an arbitrary and illegal manner, to fecure a majority, without which, he knew his fchemes could not be carried into execution. We found ourfelves under the neceffity either of paffively givingup our own rights, and the known conftitution of government, and of becoming acceffaries in all the evil confequences which might enfue, or by feparating in the manner we did, fhew by the letter we fent, by the hands of the Notary Public, that as a majority of the Council, we were refolved, in this extremity, to maintain the conftitutional rights of the Company, and to fignify to all the Company's fervants and dependants,that we required from them fubmiffion to our legal orders.

In confequence of this public act Lord Pigot proceeded immediately to the violent meafure of ordering the Commander in Chief under arreft, and fufpending us who were the Council. At this time we had in full view, and under our moft ferious confideration, the critical fituation which the public affairs might be brought into by the violent and arbitrary proceedings of a Prefident, fuch as Lord Pigot, who from his commiffion and local refidence was alfo Governor of the fort and garrifon, if time and opportunity had been left him to influence the military in fupport of his illegal government.

We alfo confidered the very great probability that the remaining part of the army not under the orders of Lord Pigot, perceiving the violence and injuftice done to the Commander in Chief, who was ordered in arreft for fupporting the civil conftitution of the Company, and well knowing that the army in general, and every impartial perfon in the

Settlement,

ſettlement, were fully convinced that a reſolution of the majority of the Council was to them the only legal act of government; we ſay therefore, that deliberating with anxious minds upon the chance of ſuch a dreadful criſis, as that the fort and garriſon of Fort St. George, with an arbitrary paſſionate man at their head, might poſſibly be ſeparated from the reſt of the Company's poſſeſſions on this Coaſt; and that the Nabob of the Carnatic, who is the ally of the Crown of Great Britain and the Company, who entruſts himſelf, his family and fortune, to the protection of the fort, might by our paſſive delay be abandoned to the perſon whom he thinks his bittereſt enemy; we heſitated not a moment to reſume the executive powers of government, in which we think ourſelves warranted, not only by the legal conſtitution of the Company, but by the ſupreme law of neceſſity, and for the ſafety of the ſtate.

This event, ſo intereſting to the welfare of the Company, has been in a great degree brought about by the good conduct and abilities which Colonel Stuart has ſhewn in the execution of our orders.

We have alſo received every aſſiſtance from the field and other officers, and we are moſt happy to find ſuch a diſpoſition in the military to reſtore and maintain the conſtitutional civil government of the Company.

The minutes which were made by Lord Pigot, and Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, after we ſeparated from them, are ſtill in their hands; ſo that we only know the particulars of the arreſt of the Commander in Chief, and the attempt made for the ſuſpenſion of the reſt of us, who conſtitute the majority of Council, from the general orders, and the letters which were ſent informing us of the ſuſpenſion.

We have ſince directed the general orders, declaring Sir Robert Fletcher in arreſt to be expunged from all the orderly books.

We

We beg leave to enclose you the copy of the proclamation which we thought proper to publish, and to transmit you copies of such other papers as we think necessary for your information, agreeably to the list enclosed.

We have the satisfaction to assure you, that every thing is in perfect tranquillity.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Fort St. George,
29th August, 1776. GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

Wrote the following letter to Major Horne.

SIR,

HAVING just received advice from a Hircara, that Captain Tonyn is at the Mount, and that part of his troop hath marched, and are arrived at Vendalore, for which last movement there is no order, although he hath been ordered to come hither by himself; we desire you will take every measure to inform us of the truth of these circumstances, and if you find that the troop hath moved from their quarters, you will order Captain Tonyn under arrest and acquaint us thereof; in the mean time, we trust your making such a disposition of your men as shall prevent any surprise. Colonel Stuart has informed us of the purport of your last letter to him.

The ſervice requiring, you will be pleaſed to order Captain Clifton to repair to Trichinopoly immediately; we expect he will ſet out to-morrow.

We are, Sir,

30th Auguſt, 1776. Your moſt obedient ſervants,

GEO. STRATTON, &c. Council.

Received the following letter from Major Horne.

The Honourable George Stratton, Eſq; Preſident, Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I have this moment heard, by private information, that ſome of Lord Pigot's friends are going to petition the Mayor's Court for a Habeas Corpus for the removal of his Lordſhip; I thought it my duty to give your Honour the earlieſt notice of this information, and to requeſt your inſtructions, ſhould the Mayor's Court grant the writ.

I communicated to his Lordſhip the purport of your directions to me, relative to his ſending diſpatches to Bengal; he made choice of Mr. Dalrymple to aſſiſt him.—His letter to the Governor-General and Council, was delivered to Sir Edward Hughes, together with three duplicates to be ſent by different ſhips.

I am, with the greateſt reſpect,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient
humble ſervant,

Mount,
30th Auguſt, 1776.

MAT^W HORNE.

Agreed, to take the opinion of the Honourable Mr. Juſtice le Maiſtre, who is here on a viſit.

The Preſident acquaints the Board, that at the Mount they are charged with cruelty in the orders given to Major Horne, particularly in that dated , wherein it is inſerted, that in caſe of an attempt to reſcue Lord Pigot, his life muſt anſwer for it.—On this occaſion, it may be neceſſary to refer the reader to every order that hath been given.

The violence of Lord Pigot, and the attempts of his friends, gave every reaſon to apprehend danger to the ſtate. Mr. Ruſſell and others had come to the main guard, called to them to turn out, and from the general tenor of their conduct, a deſign appeared of an intention to attempt the fort. The fatal conſequences of ſuch an attempt might have been the loſs of many lives, we therefore uſed the expreſſion complained of to diſcourage any ſuch attempt, and the ſubſequent orders will evince our attention to Lord Pigot.

When the change took place not a murmur was heard, for Lord Pigot's violence and arbitrary acts were known to all; but by keeping Lord Pigot at the Mount, the junior ſervants have viſited him, and the reſentment which filled the minds of men have ſubſided, and pity taken place. Mr. Dalrymple, and others about Lord Pigot, took the advantage of this, ſpread ſcandalous and fatal reports to miſlead people, and they have ſo far ſucceeded as to cauſe diſaffection in ſome. We cannot help remarking, that conſidering all circumſtances, it would have been more conſiſtent with the duty of the gentlemen at the Mount to have diſcouraged the diſaffection, and to have told all the ſervants it was a buſineſs on which they had no right to give an opinion, but they every one ought to obey all orders they might receive from the Government.

As

As we wish to pay every attention to lord Pigot, agreed that the Secretary write to Major Horne the following letter;

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

I AM ordered by the President and Council to desire you to acquaint Lord Pigot, that the Grenville will be soon dispatched to Europe, and that his Lordship's letters will be carefully put up in the Company's packet, or transmitted under the charge of any servant of the Company his Lordship may desire for that purpose, should he prefer either of those channels of conveyance to any other.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George, 30th August, 1776.

Your most obedient servant,
RICH^D J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Signed the following letter to the Governor-General and Council at Fort William.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor-General, &c. Council at Fort William.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Duplicate of our letter of yesterday is inclosed.

Having two days ago had information from several quarters of attempts to tamper with the military, which, added to the very violent and

and irregular proceedings of Mr. Ruffell, who, on the day of our refuming the Government, had endeavoured to put the main guard of the garrifon under arms, and was by force brought from thence before the Council, where he publicly denied their authority knowing moreover by our experience the violent temper of Lord Pigot, who, if at liberty, would run every rifk to recover the Government.

Thefe circumftances forced us, contrary to our private feelings, to ufe an expreffion (Inftructions to Major Horne, " As your laft refource, in any attempt to refcue Lord Pigot, his life muft anfwer for it; and this you are to fignify to him") which we imagined would deter Lord Pigot's friends and family from encouraging any attempts towards his refcue. However, we loft no time to make Lord Pigot, and his family, eafy on that fubject, as will appear by our intention to remove his Lordfhip to Chingleput, and by our letter to him of the 28th inftant. But in truth, there could be no doubt in his Lordfhip's breaft, of the humane good feelings of Major Horne, to whom *in terrorem*, this part of the order was given, purpofely to prevent any attempts to refcue him; and we think it has had the effect we looked for.

The affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General and Serjeant Shaw, now fent, gives us every reafon to believe, that if Lord Pigot had it now in his power, he would not only raife a mutiny in the army, but put himfelf at the head of an armed party, and march with them to the fort, though he fell in the attempt. Need there then any other argument, for perfons in our refponfible fituation, to take every means poffible, though at times with ftrong expreffions, to prevent any attempts, however fruitlefs, to involve this Settlement in convulfion and civil war?

We

We have taken occasion to communicate to Sir Edward Hughes, the particulars of all that has passed on this subject, and shall still continue to shew him every attention in our power, consistent with our duty we owe to our employers.

There lays before us, at this time, a letter from Sir Edward Hughes, wherein he informs us of Lord Pigot's having claimed the protection of the King's flag, and in consequence *requires* in his Majesty's name, that Major Horne be ordered to give his Lordship safe conduct to his ship.—This being a matter deserving our most serious reflection, and big with consequences which we may hereafter be made answerable for; it will require time to determine upon the subject.—We have already given Lord Pigot the choice of any Subordinate Factory on this Coast, for his place of residence, where he may be accommodated suitably to his rank, and with security to his person; or of returning to England if his Lordship should think proper so to do.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient

humble servants,

Fort St. George,
30th August, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

Read the following letter from the Nabob.

Translate of a letter from the Nabob, to Mr. Stratton, Governor of Madras, dated and received the 29th August, 1776.

I have received your letter dated the 25th inſtant. You write that, &c.

To His Highneſs Navaub Waulau Jau, Umeer Ul Kind, Omdut Ul Mulk, Uſuph Ud Dowlah, Unwar Ud Deen Cawn Bahauder, Zupphur Jung, Sepoy Salaur, Subadar of the Carnatic Payen Ghaut.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

THE unconſtitutional, violent, and illegal conduct of the late Preſident Lord Pigot, aided and abetted by Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, have reduced the majority of the Council, for the preſervation and welfare of the Company's affairs, to put the ſaid Preſident into arreſt, and to ſuſpend the other four gentlemen the ſervice, and by this meaſure the Government has devolved upon me. The Council joins with me in aſſuring your Highneſs of our firm reſolution to ſhew your Highneſs every mark of attention, reſpect, and ſupport. I have the honor to be,

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

Your Highneſs's moſt ſincere,

moſt obedient and

moſt humble ſervant,

GEORGE STRATTON.

Fort St. George,
25th Auguſt, 1776.

I have always been obliged to the Company for the directions they conſtantly ſend to their agents to give me aſſiſtance, and to pay regard to my honour, and the aſſurances you have made me in your letter of the Company's friendſhip and protection, have given me great pleaſure. With reſpect to the conduct of Lord Pigot and the other gentlemen who aſſiſted and ſupported him, it is not neceſſary for me to ſay any thing further

ther relative to the ſituation, which by his own proceedings he is involved in. My former ſervices to him, will awaken his memory towards me, and what has happened lately, makes me forgetful of *him*. Let it ſuffice, that all the troubles I have ſuffered, will be known to the King, the Parliament, and the Engliſh Nation, by the letters I have written to Lord Pigot and the Governor General, and that they will ſee by thoſe letters, how much their honour has ſuffered by the treatment I have received. As neither a right, nor was it my purpoſe to interfere in your affairs, therefore in the letter which I wrote to the Governor General, previous to Lord Pigot's ſuſpending the members of the Government, I had nothing to ſay but to declare my readineſs to co-operate to the utmoſt of my power and abilities, in any meaſure, for the advantage of the Company, and the benefit of the Carnatic. The times and the circumſtances, and the ſituations of the neighbouring powers, are ſuch, that they require we ſhould employ our utmoſt efforts for the public ſafety. At a juncture when meaſures ought to have been taken for defending ourſelves againſt the hidden deſigns of the French and Hyder Ally, and for regulating the affairs of the Company and Carnatic, the time has been taken up in quarrelling with the beſt Ally of the Engliſh Nation in India, and in vain and uſeleſs diſputes. By the grace of God, you and the gentlemen of the Council, will immediately ſit on the public affairs, and take meaſures for the ſecurity and augmentation of the public good. I on my part, am in all reſpects moſt heartily ready to give aſſiſtance to, and promote the good of the Engliſh Nation. It is not in the power of language to expreſs, how happy you and the gentlemen of Council have made me, by the aſſurances you have given me in your letter, of your determination to ſhew me every mark of your reſpect, and of the friendſhip and protection of the Company. What can I ſay more!

Agreed that the receipt be acknowledged, and that the Nabob have the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of our ſupport and protection.

The

The President acquaints the Board, that having applied to Mr. Majendie, Clerk to the Treasury, for Lord Pigot's Key, he told the President, that it was in his Lordship's possession, on which the President desired Mr. Majendie would officially apply to his Lordship for it, Mr. Majendie reports, that he did wait on his Lordship, and that his answer was to the following purport.

That he had applied to Sir Edward Hughes for the protection of the King's flag, that he expected in consequence to be very soon on board his Majesty's ship now on the road, and should there be able to determine what to do; that his key was locked up with his private papers, and that therefore from his present situation he could not get at it.

The President acquaints the Board, that having applied to Chocopah about the purchase of 50,000 dollars which the Board had resolved on the should be purchased and sent to Fort Marlbro', in consequence of their application to us, in order that the same might be shipped on board the Snow Fortune, now under dispatch for that Presidency, Chocopah Chitty replied, that he did receive an order from Lord Pigot, to purchase dollars for that purpose, but that the orders was soon after countermanded by Lord Pigot, before he could have an opportunity to purchase any, who informed him that no part of the sum ordered in consultation should be sent to Fort Marlbro'.

The Board cannot on this occasion help remarking this further instance of Lord Pigot's inattention to their orders, by having taken upon himself to counteract a measure, which it was thought the indispensable duty of this Board, to adopt for providing the necessary resources to the gentlemen at Fort Marlbro', to enable them to conduct the Company's affairs at that Presidency, and of which supply, they must evidently be in great need, from having also requested of us a further supply, which nothing but the distress of this settlement for specie, prevented the Board

Board from complying with, at the time they resolved to send the abovmentioned supply of 50,000 dollars.

Resolved, That dollars to that amount be immediately purchased and sent by the Snow Fortune, if possible, that this only conveyance which may offer for some time may not be lost.

Ordered, that the dispatches of Fort Marlbro' be immediately prepared, to forward by the Snow Fortune.

30. *Received late this night, letter from Major Horne, to Richard Joseph Sulivan, Esq; Militdry Secretary.*

SIR,

In consequence of the orders contained in your letter, I applied to Lord Pigot for the Company's general Letter per Triton, and such other public papers that might be in his Lordship's possession; and signified to him the Board's wish, that he would send some gentleman of secrecy to select the public from his private papers, in the presence of the two Secretaries; His Lordship's answer is as follows: That he has demanded the protection of the King's flag, as soon as he obtains that, he shall conclude himself in safety, and shall then give such answer, as he may judge the most proper, till then, he declines giving any answer to the requisition I have made for the delivery of any of the papers or letters.— I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

MATTHEW HORNE.

Mount,
August 30th, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION, Auguſt 31ſt, 1776.

PRESENT,

George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident.

Henry Brooke | Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer | Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan | George Mackay.

The minutes of laſt conſultation read and approved.

Ordered that Captain Maule, of Engineer, do proceed to Tanjore, to take charge of the works to be carried on there.

Agreed that Lieutenant Hiſlop be employed at Tanjore, as an aſſiſtant Engineer.

Received the following from Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

To Richard J. Sulivan, Eſq. Military Secretary.

SIR,

ON receipt of your letter of yeſterday, I communicated to my Lord Pigot the directions it contained from the Board. His Lordſhip has juſt now delivered to me in writing the following anſwer, viz.

In

In conſequence of what you communicated to me reſpecting my diſpatches for England by the Grenville, I am to inform you, that I require that Mr. Dalrymple, who has been ſo good to aſſiſt me as my Secretary, and Captain Wood, my Aid de Camp, be permitted to go on the Grenville with my letters to England.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

MATTHEW HORNE.

Mount,
31ſt Auguſt, 1776.

Agreed to write the following anſwer.

To Major Matthew Horne, commanding the Artillery at the Mount.

SIR,

HAVING laid before the Board your letter to me of this date, I am directed by them to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Pigot, that Mr. Dalrymple and Captain Wood have their permiſſion to proceed to England on the Grenville with his Lordſhip's diſpatches.

I am,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

RICH. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Fort St. George,
31ſt Auguſt, 1776.

Read a reprefentation from Comaroo, touching Lord Pigot's treatment of him at Tanjore, with depofitions of Kiftnagur and Soubarow.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Efq. Prefident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

The humble reprefentation of Comaroo.

I HUMBLY beg leave to reprefent to your Honour, &c. that Lord Pigot, on the fecond day after his arrival at Tanjore, being the 9th of April, treated me in a moft cruel manner, for vifiting the Rajah on the night before without his Lordfhip's leave: and further to injure me, I underftand his Lordfhip, fince his arrival here, hath made mifreprefentations to the Board, that I intruded myfelf on the Rajah, againft the Rajah's confent, at eleven o'clock at night, difturbed the Rajah in his repofe, diffuaded him from admitting an Englifh Garrifon in the Fort, though one had been there fome weeks before, and that I acquainted the Rajah, I was fupported by feven members of the Council: alfo, that I propofed the renting of his whole Country.

What hath been his Lordfhip's view in alledging thefe accufations againft me I cannot fay, but I am ready to give fufficient proofs that they are falfe and groundlefs.

It is well known that I have refided in that part of the country for fome years paft; that I have had the management of many very confiderable concerns, as well for myfelf as others, and that I have been many years well known to the Rajah.

A few days before his Lordfhip's arrival, I came down to this place from the Tanjore country on bufinefs, and as it was reported the Government

vernment of that Province would be reſtored to the Rajah, I wiſhed to viſit his Lordſhip before my return, and was introduced to him by Governor Wynch and Mr. Crawford. When his Lordſhip was ſetting off for Tanjore, I never had any other leave from his Lordſhip, than that Mr. Benfield told me, he had mentioned to his Lordſhip, that I had the management of his concerns, and that his Lordſhip was pleaſed to ſay, I might attend at Tanjore; accordingly I went with Mr. Benfield, who accompanied his Lordſhip.

On the 8th of April in the morning, his Lordſhip arrived at Tanjore, and viſited the Rajah, and paid him a ſecond viſit that evening. I had not conceived there was any impropriety in viſiting the Rajah, and it appearing to me that there was free liberty with the permiſſion of the Rajah to do ſo, eſpecially as I had ſeen Moodoo Kiſtnah, his Lordſhip's Dubaſh, viſit him even before his Lordſhip came into the Fort, and that he was again with him in the afternoon; alſo that one Appoo, who was Conicopoly to Colonel Roſs, and Major Stevens went frequently to and from the Rajah, and likewiſe that Colonel Harper's Dubaſh, and ſeveral others of the place viſited the Rajah many times in the day; immediately after his Lordſhip's retiring from his viſit to the Rajah on the evening of his arrival, a little after 8 o'clock, I ſent up my name to the Rajah by his ſervants; the Rajah immediately ſent out orders that I ſhould come to him; I accordingly went to him, accompanied by Kiſtnajee Punday, a Soucar, and Soobarow, a man of family, both reſidents of Tanjore.

The Rajah's ſervants conducted me to the Rajah, who was ſtanding in the midſt of a large hall, with a number of his ſervants, and Colonel Harper's Dubaſh; I there paid my reſpects to him; the Rajah chearfully accepted of my Nazir, and received me as one long known to him, for whom he had regard and friendſhip; he enquired after me, talked of

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the will of providence and his obligations to the Engliſh Nation: I then took my leave and came away.

The next morning his Lordſhip ſent for me, and, in the preſence of Mr. Chambers, told me that I was recommended to him by Mr. Crawford, that he gave me leave to come to Tanjore, to manage ſuch buſineſs as he might think proper to command, and that I went to the Rajah without his leave; this was all the charge his Lordſhip gave me, and without letting me reply in juſtification of myſelf, he proceeded to diſhonour and diſgrace me, treating me in the moſt violent and cruel manner on the public parade, and cauſing me there to be flogged.

What could have incited his Lordſhip to ſo malicious a conduct towards me I am a ſtranger to; he might have heard the knowledge I had of the Rajah, and of the Tanjore country, and of the friendly diſpoſition of the Rajah towards me. I poſitively deny that I intruded myſelf on the Rajah, in the manner ſet forth by Lord Pigot, but waited on him in a ſeaſonable hour, after having previouſly obtained his permiſſion to do ſo; and then not a ſyllable more paſſed but words of ceremony and compliment, no part of which had the ſmalleſt tendency to what his Lordſhip chuſes to advance againſt me.

Kiſtnajee Punday and Soobarow were in company the whole time I was with the Rajah; they are both here, and are ready to teſtify what I have herein ſet forth to your Honour, &c.

There hath been repeated orders given throughout the Tanjore Province, ſince it has been under Lord Pigot's influence, that no perſon ſhould have any manner of connexions with; that they ſhould not ſpeak to any of my people, nor permit them into the Fort, or let them remain in any part of the Province: in this manner hath Lord Pigot endeavoured to diſhonor, diſgrace, and ruin me. The character my parents,

my

my family, and myfelf, have fupported, is well known to all the gentlemen here, as well as to the people of the country. The loffes I have fuftained in my concerns from thofe violences and injuries amount to a very confiderable fum, and I am totally at a lofs how to proceed in them.

I hope for the protection of your Honor, &c. and that juftice may be done me for the injuries I fuffer, which I have thus humbly taken the liberty to reprefent.

I take the liberty to enclofe for your information the declarations of Kiftnajee Punday and Soobarow, taken on oath before the Mayor; they are ready to anfwer any queftions your Honour, &c. may chufe to put to them.

I am, with great refpect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Madrafs, 31ft Auguft, 1776.

Your devoted humble fervant,

COMAROO.

Declarations of Kiftnajee Punday and Soobarow.

On the 8th of April laft Lord Pigot arrived at Tanjore, and vifited the Rajah that night after 8 o'clock; and after Lord Pigot came away from the Rajah, Comaroo fent in his refpects to the Rajah, who that moment fent out orders for Comaroo to come to him. We accompanied him the whole time he was with the Rajah; three of the Rajah's fervants came before to conduct us to the Rajah, who was ftanding in the Ramafwamy Mahal; fome of his people and Col. Harper's Dubafh were there; the Rajah was overjoyed to fee Comaroo, he accepted his Nazir, enquired after him, faid, what can be compared to the favour the

the English Nation hath done? Such words of compliment paſſed between them, but not a word upon any buſineſs: then we took leave and came away; this is all that paſſed.

Madraſs,
31ſt Auguſt, 1776.

Sworn to before me, JOHN TURING, Mayor.

In conſequence of the above repreſentation, conformably to the reſolution of Council of 14th June, that Comaroo ſhould be ſent for, as alſo ſuch perſons as were preſent during the converſation between him and the Rajah, as related by Lord Pigot, Comaroo is ordered to attend the Board this evening, with Kiſtnajee Punday and Soobarow, in order that they may be examined.

Read the following declarations of Lieutenant Colonel Eidington, and Serjeant Shaw, of Lord Pigot's conduct, on the 27th of Auguſt.

A narrative of the particulars that paſſed on the night of the 27th of Auguſt 1776, betwixt the Right Honorable Lord George Pigot, late Preſident of the Council at Fort St. George in the Eaſt Indies, and Lieutenant Colonel James Edington, Adjutant General of the troops on that eſtabliſhment, who was ſent to the Mount, by order of Colonel James Stuart, commanding the forces of the Honorable Eaſt India Company, on the Coaſt of Coromandel during the indiſpoſition of Brigadier General Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. &c. in order to receive the perſon of the ſaid George Lord Pigot from Major Mathew Horne, commanding the artillery, under whoſe charge his Lordſhip then was, and remove him to the Fort of Chingleput, which is about 36 Engliſh miles from Madras. That on the ſaid night, Lieutenant Colonel Edington arrived at the Mount about half after ten; and, purſuant to his inſtructi-

ons

ons, ſent a note to Major Horne, acquainting him of his arrival, and requeſting to know when he ſhould wait upon him agreeable to directions ſent Major Horne the ſame day, Lieutenant Colonel Edington received the following anſwer:

SIR,

I have received your note, the preſent is the beſt time. I am.

Sir,

Your humble Servant,

(Signed) MATTHEW HORNE.

Lieutenant Colonel Edington on receiving the above anſwer, immediately drove to Major Horne's, being then a little paſt eleven, where he found the Major walking in the Veranda with Lord Pigot, and Lieutenant Fire-worker Gibſon, of the Artillery, who was then officer of the guard, to whom he delivered a letter from Colonel Stuart, ordering him to deliver up his Lordſhip into his cuſtody. On peruſing the ſaid letter he (Major Horne) and Lieutenant Colonel Edington walked up to Lord Pigot, the former acquainting him of the orders he had received; and the latter, that he had permiſſion to allow him a few minutes to ſelect what valuable articles his Lordſhip chuſed to take with him. After which, the Colonel informed him, that his Lordſhip muſt go in the chaiſe with him to a place where he was ordered to eſcort him, and there he would be treated with every mark of reſpect; his Lordſhip then demanded where the Colonel intended to carry him? but Lieutenant Colonel Edington not being permitted to tell him, could only repeat the former aſſurances he had given of his perſonal ſafety, on

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which his Lordſhip declared, that he was very well treated where he was, and was under the charge of a brave man, who had four hundred artillery men under his command that would protect him; at the ſame time declaring, unleſs he was carried to his fort at Madraſs, or on board his Majeſty's ſhip of war the Saliſbury, then lying in Madraſs roads, that he (Lieutenant Colonel Edington) ſhould never carry him to any other place alive. Whereon Major Horne and the Colonel told him that the orders were poſitive, he muſt go immediately. On this he threw his arms about Major Horne, claimed his protection, repeating his former reſolution of not ſtirring alive from thence. He then addreſſed himſelf to the centries and ſoldiers, to the following purpoſe: I am your lawful Governor, appointed by the Court of Directors, and none but they have a power to take from me my commiſſion; thoſe who have attempted to do it, and all concerned, are Rebels, damned Raſcals, who I will hang every one. I have been forty years in the Company's ſervice; once taken priſoner; I defended Madraſs, when laid ſiege to by the French, and obliged them to raiſe it, for which I received the thanks of my King and Country, as well as of the Honorable Company; at the ſame time created a Peer of Ireland, and a great deal to the above effect; adding, you are all my ſoldiers, you are four hundred brave fellows, and I will march at your head againſt all the forces on the coaſt, and concluded with the moſt opprobrious language againſt the preſent Governor (Mr. Stratton) and Council, who, he ſaid were legally ſuſpended the Company's ſervice by him, and the majority of the Council; and that Lieutenant Colonel Edington, pointing to him, was one of the Villains or Raſcals who had made him priſoner; aſſiſted by that Raſcal Stuart, after accepting of the command of the army from him, and giving him his honor that he would ſupport him in every thing. About this time Meſſieurs Monckton, Dalrymple, and Lathom, made their appearance, the two former uſing ſuch groſs and abuſive expreſſions, particularly Monckton, againſt the Governor

Governor Mr. Stratton, and the other gentlemen of the Council, Col. Stuart, and all who obeyed their orders, as Lieutenant Colonel Edington never heard gentlemen make uſe of before. On the arrival of Meſſieurs Monckton, Dalrymple, and Lathom, the Officer fell in his guard, and marched it within a few paces of Major Horne's Veranda; when Lieutenant Colonel Edington judged it then the proper opportunity to execute his orders, and addreſſing the guard, told them that he came there by the expreſs orders of the commanding officer of the troops, who was empowered by the Governor (Mr. Stratton) and the reſt of the Council, and demanding in a peremptory manner whether or not they would obey their orders veſted in him. This he repeated a ſecond time, and the officer replied, he would obey Major Horne's orders. Lieutenant Colonel Edington then took Major Horne aſide, and aſked him if he was certain of the fidelity of his troops? who replied, he would anſwer for them with his life. That they (Lieutenant Colonel Edington and Major Horne) agreed not to proceed further, until they had received freſh inſtructions from the Board, provided his Lordſhip would give his word of honour that he would make no attempt to eſcape, or employ agents to tamper with the troops, which, from intercepted letters and other circumſtances, the Board had reaſon to ſuſpect. His Lordſhip gave his honor accordingly, and nothing farther was done.

Madras, 30th
Aug. 1776. JAMES EDINGTON, Adjutant Gen.

Sworn before me JOHN TURING, Mayor.

The

The following is as near possible the discourse that happened at the Mount on Thursday night, the 27th August, 1776.

Colonel Edington went to Major Horne and Lord Pigot at Major Horne's house; where some conversation passed, but my being at too great a distance prevented me from hearing any thing for almost five minutes, when at that time I heard Lord Pigot declare, with an oath, that he would not go with Colonel Edington alive, unless Major Horne would let some of those brave men (pointing to the artillery men) guard him to his fort, or on board the Admiral ship. Major Horne said that was impossible, as he must abide by order of Council: Lord Pigot said there could be no orders without his concurrence; that he was Governor, and was sent out by the Court of Directors, and that none but them could appoint another. Colonel Edington told his Lordship, that it was his duty he was performing, and hoped his Lordship would go with him; to all which his Lordship answered in the negative. During this time, there came two gentlemen, the one, I heard, was a Mr. Monckton, and the other a Justice of Peace. Major Horne, said to one of these gentlemen he must not come there; to which he answered, then you shall knock me down. Colonel Edington then enforced his arguments strongly with my Lord, requesting him to go with him, as he should be taken care of; to all which my Lord would not consent. By this time, the Officer commanding the guard desired the Serjeant to march the guard in, which was done; then Lord Pigot addressed himself to the soldiers, claiming their assistance and protection. Colonel Edington asked the officers of the guard if he did not obey the Company, or who he obeyed? I could not hear what answer the officer of the guard made, but he pointed his sword to Major Horne; then Major Horne, Lord Pigot, and the two men came out, and my Lord harrangued the soldiers concerning his length of time in the country, which he said was forty years, and that he at all times was a soldier's friend; and other such like expressions

fions. Colonel Edington told his Lordfhip, he hoped he would go with him, as it was for that reafon he came there; to which my Lord Pigot faid, he would not; the gentleman, who was the Juftice faid, they (as I fuppofe, meaning the Council) had not acted with propriety; Colonel Edington faid, he could not fee what bufinefs or concern you (meaning the Juftice) have here; to which he anfwered, as being a Juftice of Peace; Colonel Edington faid, he was no Lawyer; to which my Lord Pigot interrupted him, faying he was a Lawyer, Counfellor, and Governor, and alfo was made a Lord by his mafter; he then afked thofe brave men if he did not work with them at the fiege of Madrafs, and if he was not a good foldier? I then heard Colonel Edington fay, it was of no ufe harranguing the foldiers, and defired Lord Pigot to return in the houfe; my Lord faid, he would not for no fuch villain, and that he would not go from there, unlefs Major Horne would let thofe brave men guard him to his Fort again; Major Horne faid, that was impoffible, as it was the Council's Orders for Colonel Edington to take him from hence; Lord Pigot faid, the fcoundrels and villains ought to be fhot; to which one of the gentlemen, which I believe was Mr. Monckton, faid, they ought to be hanged, fhooting was too good. My Lord faid, the villains with a party of Sepoys feized him from his chaife, and faid Colonel Stuart invited himfelf to fupper, and then like a villain gave me up to you; the villain and fcoundrel, addreffing himfelf to Colonel Edington; he alfo called Captain Lyfaught a fcondrel, as alfo every one in the Fort. Colonel Edington defired him to defift from fuch expreffions, telling my Lord, it was not proper to ufe them againft the Council. Colonel Edington called Major Horne, out and had fome converfation with him, which I could not hear, and at their return, Major Horne defired my Lord to make himfelf eafy; and Major Horne told Colonel Edington, that he would anfwer with his life (that as his Lordfhip was determined not to go, unlefs he went to the Fort, and was guarded) he fhould not go from his houfe, unlefs by Order of Council; when,

6 F after

after ſome converſation relative to his, Lord Pigot's going with Colonel Edington, which my Lord abſolutely refuſed, the guard marched back, and Lord Pigot, Colonel Edington, and Major Horne, returned into the houſe; the other two gentlemen took their leave and went away; after which I heard no more.

GEO^E^. SHAW.

Madraſs, 30th Aug. 1776.

Serjt. 7th Battaln. of Sepoys.

Sworn to before me JOHN TURING, Mayor.

Wrote a letter to Mr. Juſtice Le Maiſtre, according to reſolution of yeſterday.

Read the following letter from Major Horne.

To the Honorable George Stratton, Eſq; Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honorable Sir and Sirs,

I received your orders of yeſterday, at half paſt ten o'clock, and immediately cauſed enquiry to be made, if Captain Tonyn was at the Mount, or had been ſeen there, but could learn no intelligence of him, and I am confident he has not been, nor is now at the Mount.

Juſt

Juſt as we were retiring to reſt, his Lordſhip was informed that a company of Europeans, and another of Sepoys, were marched out of the Fort, and that ſome gentlemen in two carriages were with them. His Lordſhip was alarmed; however, about an hour afterwards he went to reſt. I have ordered Captain Clifton to Trichinopoly, and directed him to proceed this day. I have juſt heard Colonel Nixon is arrived this morning at Mr. Monckton's, on his way to Vellore.

I am, with reſpect,

Honorable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt humble Servant,

Mount 31ſt Aug. 1776.

MATTHEW HORNE.

Adjourned till 6 this Evening.

To the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, Preſident, and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Right Honorable. Sir and Sirs,

I beg leave to inform you, two Hircaras came in from Seringapatam this morning, and declares Hyder Ally Cawn is making every preparation to come againſt Madura and Trichinopoly countries; he is drawing his troops together from all quarters, and has fixt his jundy and formed his camp to the Eaſtward of Seringapatam, with a very heavy train of artillery. This report I ſhould ſuppoſe has ſome grounds for being true; as a Romiſh Prieſt from Dindegal has wrote to the Owower Prieſt, to ſend

ſend away all his effects without loſs of time, or he muſt expect to ſhare the fate of war. This I have thought it my duty to give you the earlieſt intelligence, at the ſame time ſhould deem it a neglect in not ſetting forth the great deficiency of ſtores in this garriſon; though many indents have been made, none has been anſwered; ſhould there be occaſion for a detachment to move, we have not a flint to ſupply them, nor any tar for our gun carriages, and only 300 barrels of powder.

In conſequence of expected troubles I have thought proper to make ſome neceſſary repairs in the Fort, and have taken ſome Hircaras into the ſervice, as it requires that I may be able to give you every intelligence in due time. Wiſhing theſe proceedings by me may meet with the Right Honorable Board's approbation,

I am, with the profoundeſt reſpect,

Right Honorable Sir and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient and moſt

Faithful Servant,

Trichinopoly, 28 Aug. 1776

EDWD. JAMES.

The Preſident is deſired to inform himſelf of the intelligence the Nabob may have received from Seringapatam.

The military ſtore-keeper acquaints the Board, that the ſtores indented for have been ſent to Trichinopoly.

August 31, 1776,

AT A CONSULTATION

PRESENT,

George Stratton, Esquire, President,

Henry Brooke,
Sir Robert Fletcher,
Charles Floyer,
Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay.

Comaroo, Kistmajee Punday, and Soobarow, are called before the Board, and examined as follows.

Question 1. Did you force your way into the Rajah's house, on the 8th April, at eleven o'clock at night?

Answer. No.

Question 2. Did you propose to the Rajah to rent his whole country, telling him that you was supported by seven members of the Council?

Answer. No, I did not.

Question 3. Did you tell the Rajah that Lord Pigot would recommend to him to admit an English garrison into his fort? and did you at the same time endeavour to dissuade him from admitting the garrison?

Answer. No.

Question 4. Did you tell the Rajah, that Lord Pigot would probably advise him to depend on the Company for the protection of his country, which he was by no means to comply with, but on the contrary to reply, that he would defend his country in the same manner as his father, and that he did not want such assistance?

Answer. No.

Question 5. Did Lord Pigot charge you with having said the above to the Rajah when you were at Tanjore?

Answer. No.

Question 6. Proposed by Sir Robert Fletcher. Had you ever any conversation with any member of the Council, previous to your going to Tanjore, touching the subject matter of the second Question to which you have already answered?

Answer. No, I never had.

Question 7. Proposed by the President. Can you recollect what passed between you and the Rajah, when you were at Tanjore, in the several conversations you had with him?

Answer. I have set forth every thing that passed between the Rajah and me in my representation.

Queſtion 8. Did Lord Pigot give you no kind of reaſon for ordering you to be publickly puniſhed at Tanjore?

Anſwer. No other reaſon whatſoever than that I waited on the Rajah without his permiſſion.

Queſtion 9. Did you ſee and converſe with the Rajah only once during the time you were at Tanjore?

Anſwer. Only once.

Comaroo then relates, as followeth: Lord Pigot had not ſeen the Rajah before I was ſent for on the 9th April in the morning; the repreſentation againſt me therefore muſt have come from Moodoo Kiſtna, his lordſhip's Dubaſh; for the Rajah I know for a certainty had no Vackeels of his own, nor indeed do I believe Vackeels were employed, but if they were, they muſt have been the Vackeels of Moodoo Kiſtnah. Moodoo Kiſtnah it is well known, is a profeſſed enemy of mine, by him therefore his lordſhip muſt have been influenced to load me with that ignominy and diſgrace, for which nothing in the world can be an adequate compenſation. My character from my childhood is intimately known to many of you gentlemen now preſent, as well as to others in this Settlement; and I am well convinced you will do me the juſtice to believe I have ever conducted myſelf with the ſtricteſt propriety, both with reſpect to the Honourable Company's Government and to every gentleman in their ſervice. The injuries I have ſuſtained have been ſo grievous, that I could not but apply to this Honourable Board for redreſs; you well know, gentlemen, how peculiarly diſgraceful it muſt be to a man of my religion and circumſtances to be publickly flogged; the ſtain it leaves remains not only on me, but my family likewiſe partake of it, and thereby become unjuſtly involved in what is the ſevereſt puniſhment that can be inflicted on men in this country guilty of the moſt atrocious crimes.

Queſtions to Kiſtnajee Punday, Soucar.

Queſtion 1. Were you with Comaroo when he viſited the Rajah of Tanjore in April laſt?

Anſwer. Yes, I was.

Queſtion 2. At what hour of the night was it?

Anſwer. About nine o'clock at night.

Queſtion 3. Did Comaroo force his way into the Rajah of Tanjore's houſe the night he viſited him?

Anſwer. No, he did not force his way into the Rajah's houſe.

Queſtion 4. Did Comaroo propoſe to the Rajah, in your hearing, to rent his whole country, telling him that he was ſupported by ſeven members of the Council?

Anſwer.

Anſwer. No, he did not.
Queſtion 3. (As to Comaroo?)
Anſwer. No, Comaroo did not ſpeak upon the ſubject.
Queſtion 4. (As to Comaroo?)
Anſwer. No ſuch words ever came from Comaroo.
Queſtion. Were you near enough to hear diſtinctly all that paſſed between the Rajah and Comaroo?
Anſwer. I was cloſe to both the Rajah and Comaroo, and therefore could hear dictinctly every thing that paſſed.—

Soobarow Amuldar called before the Board.

Queſtion 1. The queſtions put to him the ſame as to Kiſtnajee Punday?
Anſwer. I was with Comaroo when he viſited the Rajah in April laſt.
Queſtion. 2.
Anſwer. After eight o'Clock.
Queſtion 3.
Anſwer. No, he did not force his way in the Rajah's Houſe.
Queſtion 4.
Anſwer. No, he did not.
Queſtion 3. (As to Comaroo?)
Anſwer. Not a word paſſed upon that ſubject.
Queſtion 4. (As to Comaroo?)
Anſwer. Comaroo never ſaid any ſuch thing to the Rajah.
Queſtion 5. Were you near enough to hear diſtinctly all that paſſed between Comaroo and the Rajah?
Anſwer. I was ſo near the Rajah and Comaroo, that I could not but hear every thing that paſſed between them.

TheBoard are well ſatisfied, from the depoſitions of Kiſtnajee Punday and Soobarow before the Mayor, as well as from the declarations of Comaroo, and their evidence in his favour, that what has been alledged againſt him by Lord Pigot, muſt have proceeded from unjuſt repreſentations made to his Lordſhip by Moodoo Kiſtnah, his Lordſhip's Dubaſh, or his adherents. Comaroo, it appears, ſo far from *forcing* his way into the preſence of the Rajah, was conducted to him by ſome of the Rajah's own ſervants, and kindly received; and, during the whole of his viſit, confined his diſcourſe to mere matters of compliment (as related by the above perſons who accompanied him) without once touching upon buſineſs of any kind. And indeed, if it be remembered that buſineſs is never the ſubject of converſation at firſt viſits in this country, it will ſeem very improbable that Comaroo ſhould

ſhould break through ſo univerſal an eſtabliſhed cuſtom. In ſhort, the Board cannot but be convinced, from what has now appeared before them, that Comaroo is *entirely innocent* of the charges lodged againſt him by Lord Pigot; for as he ſaw the Rajah but once during the time he was at Tanjore, and as at that interview nothing further paſſed between them than words of compliment, it is impoſſible he could have ſpoke to or adviſed the Rajah in the manner ſet forth by his Lordſhip. The Board cannot therefore heſitate to declare, in juſtice to an *innocent and oppreſſed* man, that they deem the ignominious puniſhment inflicted on Comaroo by orders of Lord Pigot, in cauſing him to be publickly flogged, to be altogether unmerited on his part, and highly illegal on that of his Lordſhip; and the more particularly ſo, as his Lordſhip did not accuſe him of any miſdemeanors, or bring even a charge againſt him, till many days after his return from the Tanjore country. As to Comaroo's pretended declaration of *being ſupported by ſeven Members of the Council,* and of adviſing the Rajah *not to admit* an Engliſh garriſon into his fort, although the Company's troops were then in it, and had been there for ſome time, theſe matters ſpeak for themſelves, and are therefore unworthy of remark.

Read the following Letter from Mr. Torriano.

SIR,

I underſtand that a letter is delivered in to the Board, to which my name is ſigned contrary to my deſire; I therefore deſire you will pleaſe to acquaint the Board, that it was too haſtily done by me, and that I have inſiſted upon it's being taken out again before it was delivered in, becauſe I apprehended I had not done right. I have not been able to get my name eraſed, but I requeſt you will inform the Board, that I hope they will not conſider it as an action of mine, for I do not think myſelf a proper judge in the matter.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George,
31ſt Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

W. H. TORRIANO.

At

At a CONSULTATION,

Sunday, 1st September.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Esquire, Governor, President.

Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Fletcher,
Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan, George Mackay.

Read and approved the Proceedings of Yesterday.

Received the following Letter from the Honourable Mr. Justice Le Maistre.

To Charles Oakley, Esq. Secretary.

SIR,

I have received the honour of your letter, and have perused (and that not for the first time) his late Majesty's royal charter, bearing date at Westminster in the 26th year of his reign, enacting and establishing a Court of Judicature within the town or factory of Madraspatnam, by the name of the Mayor and Aldermen of Madraspatnam, who are thereby authorized to try, hear, and determine all civil suits, actions, and pleas, between party and party, that shall or may arise or happen, or that have already arisen or happened within the said town of Madraspatnam, or within any of the factories subject or subordinate unto Fort St. George aforesaid, or to the said Governor or President, and the Council of Fort St. George aforesaid, except such suits or actions shall be between the Indian natives of Madraspatnam only, in which case the same is to be determined among themselves, unless both parties shall by consent submit the same to the determination of the said Mayor's Court.

His Majesty's writ of habeas corpus, by the common law, is a prerogative writ of a very high nature, and can only be issued by the superior courts of Westminster-Hall, unless warranted by express words in a charter granted by his Majesty, or by general or special words under the authority of an act of parliament; and however desirable it may be that a writ so bene-

ficial to the subject should be extended to the remotest parts of the British Empire, I am sorry to say, I can find no clause which warrants the issuing of it in the charter enacting and establishing the said Mayor's Court, which I have now before me.

The statute of Charles II, commonly called the habeas corpus act, most clearly relates to the superior courts, and the judges thereof, in Great-Britain only.

I have the honour to be,

Fort St. George,
31st August, 1776.

SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

S. C. LE MAISTRE.

The following Letter was in consequence immediately wrote to Major Horne.

To Major Horne, commanding the Artillery at the Mount.

SIR,

WE received your letters of the 30th last night, and that of the 31st this morning.

In the former you acquaint us, that you had received information that some of Lord Pigot's friends were going to petition the Mayor's Court for a habeas corpus for the removal of his lordship, and request our instructions should the Mayor's Court grant the writ.

We have procured the opinion of Judge Le Maistre, who is the best law authority here upon this point, and we understand therefrom, that the Mayor's Court have no power to grant such a writ.

We have received a letter this morning from Captain Tonyn, acquainting us, that in obedience to our order he himself is coming to the Presidency;

dency, if you chance to see him at the Mount, acquaint him that we wish him to proceed hither immediately.

We are,

SIR,

Fort St. George,
31st August, 1776.

Your most obedient servants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

Read the following Letter from Major Horne.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President, Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

A gentleman, who says his name is Sedgely, came to me, and said he waited on me as attorney to Lord Pigot, and said, a petition having been presented to the Mayor's Court for a writ of habeas corpus, he came by their authority to demand a copy or sight of the warrant, or order, by which I held his Lordship in custody, and made that demand in presence of two witnesses that accompanied him: I gave for answer, that I had given Lord Pigot a copy of the order I received when his Lordship was brought to me, that I could give no other, or that, to any person without instructions: he took this for a refusal, and went away accordingly.

I have just been honoured with your letter of this day, in which you take notice of having consulted Judge Le Maistre, and informing me of his opinion, and your orders in consequence. In these critical situations common prudence requires the greatest circumspection; and as I am not conversant in law affairs, I hope you will pardon me if I am improper in suggesting, that should a suit at law be commenced against me, for acting in obedience to your orders as a military man, that I should have some security of being indemnified, or that my private fortune should not be hurt, or family suffer. I doubt not, when your Honours reflect on my situation, you'll be of opinion,

opinion, that I ought to be secured against any damages the civil law may inflict for my obeying your orders as a military man.

I am, with great respect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Mount, 31st Aug. 1776. 7 P.M.

Your most obedient humble servant,

MATT. HORNE.

Read General Letter from Bengal, with their Resolutions.

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President, &c. Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

On the 31st of last month we acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 13th, enclosing a copy of all your proceedings relative to Tanjore. We have taken these proceedings into our most serious consideration, and have unanimously agreed in resolutions on such parts of them, as by their importance demanded our first and immediate attention, and by their nature and tendency called or the interposition of the controlling power vested in us by Parliament over the Presidency of Madrass. We enclose you a copy of these resolutions, and positively require you to abstain from all such acts and declarations in future as we have thereby condemned; declaring to you, that we shall hold your President, or any member of your Board, who shall act in contradiction to the sense of the above resolutions, to be guilty of a wilful violation of the rights of the Nabob, and a disturber of the peace of the Carnatic.

We have confined our resolutions to such indisputed facts, as had a direct and immediate tendency to alienate the mind of the Nabob from his friendship and alliance with the Company, and to interrupt the tranquillity of that part of India; but we see, on the face of your proceedings, several other facts, of which we equally disapprove, and on some of which we think it necessary to require a further explanation from you.

We

We cannot avoid remarking, through the whole tenor of your President's conduct and behaviour to the Nabob, manifest symptoms of a strong personal indisposition towards him, heightened by a tone of authority unbecoming the Nabob's dignity and independency, and inconsistent with the respect which the Company have in all their letters directed to be shewn to him. A remarkable instance of this has been furnished us by the Nabob himself, in the draught of a letter presented to the Nabob by Lord Pigot, and required to be written by him to his lordship, containing an approval of his conduct, and an assurance of forgiveness for what had passed. We allude particularly to this instance, because it affords us at the same time too strong a presumption, that the offers which the Rajah of Tanjore has so liberally made, in opposition to his own interest, may have been drawn from him by the same indirect kind of influence. This is again corroborated by a resolution entered in your proceedings of the 25th of April, that it was necessary the whole country of Tanjore should be protected by the forces of the Company, and by the request made by the Rajah almost in the same words, at the meeting which he soon afterwards had with the President, that the Company's forces might be allowed for the protection of his whole country; and is still more strongly confirmed by his request, that the Company would take what country they thought proper, as a dependency on Deva Cotah; by his declaration that the country of Tanjore was the Company's; and that he had only to request his honour might be preserved; and by his tender of all the grain in his dominions to be purchased by the Company; which are expressions, such as were never voluntarily used by any independent prince, however grateful he might be for the services rendered to him.

Notwithstanding the request of the Rajah thus made, we cannot but consider the measure of employing the Company's forces for the protection of the whole country of Tanjore, as unwarranted and repugnant to the spirit of the Company's orders. It is very evident, that the Company intended to restrict the employment of their troops to the garrisoning of the city of Tanjore, but left to the Rajah's discretion the general defence of his dominions. The purposes assigned for placing an English garrison in the fort of Tanjore, in the 6th paragraph of their orders, and the provision made in the 12th paragraph for the march of their troops into the country of Tanjore at the requisition of the Rajah in case of troubles, added to their declaration in the 7th paragraph, that no diminution of the Rajah's authority over his own subjects was intended by them, put this construction beyond

a doubt, were it neceſſary to ſeek for negative arguments when a poſitive authority is wanting to ſupport the meaſure.

The ſubſidy fixed for the payment of the garriſon of Tanjore, and for the other forces employed in the protection of the country, is another deviation from the orders of the Court of Directors, which direct, that no greater portion of the revenues ſhall be aſſigned to the Company than may be abſolutely neceſſary for the ſupport of their garriſon.

We obſerve, that in the motion made by the Right Honourable Preſident for the appointment of a Chief and Council to reſide at Tanjore, ſeveral motives and objects are aſſigned for it, which are different both from the letter and ſpirit of the Company's orders; and that the appointment of a reſident at Tanjore, which, on failure of that propoſal, was afterwards adopted, was declared to be for fulfilling the ſame purpoſes in part that were propoſed for the Council. We ſhall ſuſpend our opinion upon this meaſure for the preſent, but think it neceſſary to deſire that you will furniſh us with a copy of the inſtructions delivered to Mr. Ruſſel, declaring at the ſame time that we ſhall conſider any authority given him to interfere in the affairs of that Government, as a breach of the Company's poſitive orders. At preſent we cannot conſider his appointment as having any other object than the above. We are much afraid it will have that appearance in the eyes of the other neighbouring powers, and that it will be too liable to ſuggeſt to them the apprehenſion, that the act of reſtoring the Rajah of Tanjore to the poſſeſſion of his dominions, was only a pretence for veſting the Sovereignty and Government of that country in the Company, under the name of the Rajah of Tanjore.

The Nabob, both in his letters to your Preſident, and in his correſpondence with this Government, has complained that Lord Pigot had cauſed a proclamation to be made in the Fort, and through all the diſtricts of Tanjore, "That no one ſhould give protection or rice to any of his (the Nabob's) "people, but bring them forth; and even that if any Perſon gave ſhelter to "his ſervants, he ſhould be conſidered as criminal." And that ſome of his moſt creditable and ancient ſervants, who were at Tanjore, had been treated with indignity by the dependents of Lord Pigot, and that ſome of them were detained in priſon by the Rajah ſo late as in the month of May laſt." We expected to have found ſome notice of theſe complaints in your proceedings. We deſire that you will furniſh us with the fulleſt information of the facts to which they allude.

We

We have alſo received a later remonſtrance from the Nabob, on the ſubject of orders iſſued, as he affirms, by Lord Pigot, for the ſeizure of one of the Nabob's principal ſervants, named Mahomed Hebraz Cawn, by a party of ſeapoys, who forcibly entered the Kella of Woodiarpolly, belonging to him, for that purpoſe, and ſearched all the houſes for the perſon whom they were in queſt of, but not finding him, they carried away and ill-treated many of the inhabitants. We deſire to be furniſhed alſo with an explanation of this affair.

The Nabob has requeſted that a Reſident might be appointed, on the part of this Government, to remain with him. As ſuch a meaſure might imply a diſtruſt in us, whether the reſolutions we have taken and now communicate to you will be efficacious; we have for the preſent determined to decline complying with the Nabob's deſire, and hope an alteration in your meaſures and conduct towards him will produce a return of that confidence and attachment to your government, which has ſo unalterably ſubſiſted until the late unhappy differences took place.

We deſire you will tranſmit to us a copy of the orders delivered by Lord Pigot to Captain Tonyn for eſcorting the Dobbeer to Tanjore, and of Captain Tonyn's report of the execution of thoſe orders; and that you will alſo call captain Tonyn before you, and aſk him whether Arrialore is an open or encloſed town? Whether he met with any oppoſition in the execution of his orders, or in leaving the place? and in what ſituation he found the Dobbeer? His replies upon theſe ſeveral queſtions you will be pleaſed to tranſmit to us, as well as to the Court of Directors, by the firſt opportunity.

Having condemned the expulſion of the Nabob's agent and troops from certain diſtricts of Morawer and Nulcoota, juſtice requires, and we direct, that he be permitted to repoſſeſs thoſe diſtricts, if he ſtill perſiſts in his claim to them, and that commiſſioners be appointed, in any manner which ſhall be approved by his Highneſs and the Rajah, to examine upon this ſpot their reſpective pretenſions, and to decide upon them; ſuch a deciſion ought to be admitted as binding on both parties; but in caſe it ſhould not prove ſo, or if the commiſſioners ſhould not agree in their award, we deſire that a copy of their proceedings be tranſmitted to us, that we may offer our final ſentiments and mediation upon them.

We

We were desirous that you should be apprized of these our sentiments and resolutions before the departure of the Grenville for England, and we hope that the request contained in our letter of the 31st will not have been the occasion of much delay in the dispatch of that ship.

We are,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Fort-William,
7th August, 1776.

WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
GEO. MONSON,
RICH. BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

Secret Department, Extract of Consultation, 7th August, 1776.

Copy of Resolutions of Council.

1. RESOLVED, That the detaching an officer with a party of the Company's troops into the town of Allianore, situated within the Nabob's dominions, the forcing away the Nabob's guards stationed there, and the seizing his officers and servants, with all his papers, public and private, and carrying them prisoners to Tanjore, were acts of hostility against the Nabob; that they were not necessary to carry the Company's Orders and intentions into execution; nor justified by their instructions for restoring the king of Tanjore.

2. RESOLVED, That the threat expressed by the president, personally to the Nabob, that he would station a guard at the Nabob's house, for the declared purpose of intercepting any communication between him, the Members of the Council, and other Europeans, his Majesty's subjects, was an invasion of the Nabob's rights, as an independent prince, and might justly alarm him for the safety of his person.

3. RESOLVED, That the forcible expulsion of the Nabob's agents and troops from certain districts of Marawer and Nulcoota, without any pre-
vious

vious application to the Nabob, was an act of hostility against his Highness, unauthorized and unnecessary.

4. RESOLVED, That the President's declaration, That if the gates of Allianore, or any other gates in the Payen-Gaut, should be shut against the troops of the Company, when they asked admission by his authority, it would be an improper return to the man who had put his Highness in possession of them, implies a general denial of the Nabob's right to refuse admittance of the Company's troops into any of his forts or garrisons, and founds that denial on a supposed personal ingratitude to the President, not on a breach of the regard and friendship due to the Company, as if his Highness's obligation for being put in possession of such forts and garrisons was due to the President alone, in exclusion of the Company.

5. RESOLVED, That the President's declaration, That whenever the Nabob's business should be connected with the interest of the Company, he would always act as to him should appear proper, and make use of the Nabob's authority, was equivalent to an assumption to himself of all the powers vested in the lawful Nabob of the Carnatic.

6. RESOLVED, That these several acts and declarations, collectively and separately, are an infringement of the rights and powers inherent in, and dependent on his Highness's title, as lawful Nabob of the Carnatic, in which character he is acknowledged by the Treaty of Paris. That they tend to reduce him to a mere nominal Nabob, and to alienate his mind from that faithful attachment to the English Company, of which they declare they have had long experience.

7. RESOLVED, That the acts and declarations above recited have a direct and immediate tendency to disturb the peace of the Carnatic, and are unwarranted and unjust.

8. RESOLVED, That this Board will support the rights of the lawful Nabob of the Carnatic against all such attempts in future; and that they will exert with effect the power vested in them by the Legislature, of superintending and controlling the Government of the Presidency of Madras, for the preservation of peace in the Carnatic.

(A true copy)

Fort William,
the 7th August, 1776.

J. P. AURIOL, Secretary.

 ORDERED,

ORDERED, That the following letter be ſent to Major Horne.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

S I R,

We have received your letter of yeſterday's date, informing us, that a gentleman of the name of Sedgeley had waited on you as attorney to Lord Pigot; that he told you, a petition having been preſented to the Mayor's Court for a writ of habeas corpus, he came by their authority to demand a copy or ſight of the warrant, or order, by which you held his lordſhip in cuſtody, and made that demand in preſence of two witneſſes, who accompanied him; that you gave for anſwer, you had furniſhed Lord Pigot with a copy of the order you received, when his lordſhip was brought to you; that you could give no other, or that, to any perſon whatever, without inſtructions; and that he took ſuch declaration for a refuſal, and left you accordingly.

In this, as in all your conduct, you have acted in ſuch a manner as to merit our entire approbation.

Accompanying we ſend you a letter we have received from Mr. Juſtice Le Maiſtre, who is of opinion, as you will perceive herein, that the Mayor's Court are not legally authorized to iſſue a writ of habeas corpus.

We cannot heſitate a moment in giving you the indemnification you deem neceſſary, ſhould any actions at law be commenced againſt you for acting in obedience to our orders: we therefore do in this public manner promiſe and indemnify you, in the name of the Company, in any loſſes or damages you may ſuſtain, in carrying into execution the orders you may receive from us,

We are,

S I R,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

GEORGE STRATTON, and Council.

Fort St. George,
1ſt September, 1776.

Read

Read the following Letter from Major Horne, accompanied by a note from Mr. Dalrymple, to Mr. Secretary Sulivan.

To R. J. Sulivan, Esq. Military Secretary.

SIR,

MY Lord Pigot has desired me to forward the accompanying general letter to you.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Mount,
September 1st, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

MATTHEW HORNE.

Mr. Dalrymple's compliments to Mr. Secretary Sulivan, returns from Lord Pigot the draught of the general letter, and desires a copy may be made in the office for him to sign, and that my minute of the 10th June, and the other minutes in the list Mr. Baine had, may be copied for his Lordship, and sent to him as soon as done.

Wrote the following letter to Major Horne.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

I HAVE received your letters of this date, and have the orders of the President and Council, to desire you will inform Lord Pigot, that although the assistants in the public offices are fully employed in the Company's business, yet as they are desirous his Lordship should meet with no kind of impediment in preparing his advices for England, they have given me directions to furnish him with copies of those papers he has now applied for.

I am, SIR,

Fort St. George,
1st September, 1776.

Your most obedient servant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

ORDERED,

ORDERED, that the following letter be written by the Secretaries to Alexander Dalrymple, Esquire.

To Alexander Dalrymple, Esq.

SIR,

WE received the notes which you wrote us separately the 27th *ultimo*, desiring to know if you were debarred access to the Company's records. Having laid these notes before the Board, we are directed by them to acquaint you shall be furnished from our respective offices with copies of such papers as may concern yourself, if you desire them, but they cannot permit you to have access to any of the Company's records in the office.

We are, SIR,

Fort St. George,
1st September, 1776.

Your most obedient servants,

CHARLES OAKELEY,
R. J. SULIVAN.

To which Mr. Dalrymple made the following reply.

To Mr. Secretary Oakely, and Mr. Secretary Sulivan.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE received your joint letter, that I am debarred access from the Company's records, but may have copies of such papers as relate to myself; I therefore desire copies of all my minutes, and the minutes of the other members in answer to them, or to which they are in answer.

1st September, 1776.

Your humble servant,

A. DALRYMPLE.

Read the following Letter from Colonel Harper.

To

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

I HAD the honour to receive your letter of the 25th inftant, covering your orders on a proclamation, which fhall be read at the head of the troops.

If I find it neceffary the proper difpofition of the troops fhall be made, and the two battalions fhall be drawn nearer the place, as you defire; and nothing in my power fhall be wanting for the welfare and fafety of the place. Should any thing worthy of your notice occur, you may rely on the earlieft information. I have wrote Colonel James according to your orders, with whom I fhall correfpond for the mutual fecurity of both places.

I have affured the Rajah of your protection and friendfhip, and that though an alteration had happened in Council, it made not the leaft difference to the fecurity of his Government.

I remain with the greateft refpect,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Tanjore,
29th Auguft, 1776.

Your moft obedient humble fervant,

H. HARPER.

WROTE the following letter to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, acknowledging the receipt of their letter, and refolutions of the 7th Auguft, received this morning.

To the Honourable Warren Haftings, Esq. Governor-General, &c. Council of Bengal.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

WE have this day had the honour to receive your letter, dated the 7th ultimo, with copy of the refolutions which you have paffed on the proceed-

ings transmitted to you by the Swallow, and your Honour, &c. may be assured, that we shall, as soon as possible, pay every attention to the various matters therein contained.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Your most obedient humble servants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

Fort St. George,
1st September, 1776.

Adjourned till Tuesday morning eight o'Clock.

The Council having met, and there being no business, agreed to adjourn till to-morrow morning at eight o'Clock.

FORT St. GEORGE, 2d September, 1776.

2d. Dispatched the following letter to Lieutenant Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

We have received your letter, dated the ——— and hope the Rajah's mind will ere this be quieted; we rely on your taking every opportunity to convince him, that it will ever be our firm resolution to support him in all his just rights, and not on any account to permit interference with his Government.

As we understand that Comaroo has been ordered by Lord Pigot not to go to Tanjore, we think it necessary to inform you, that the charges against him have been very strictly enquired into, and that he having been acquitted thereof, has our permission to proceed to Tanjore on his own business.

Captain

Captain Maule is appointed an engineer, and Lieutenant Hislop assistant engineer at Tanjore, and you will of course give them all the assistance they may have occasion for.

We are, SIR,

Fort St. George, 2d September, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

At a CONSULTATION,

Tuesday, 3d Sept.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Esq.

Henry Brooke — Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer — Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan — George Mackay

Having taken under consideration the letter from the Governor-General and Council, with their resolutions, we are happy to find that the Governor-General and Council conceive in opinion with us, on the several points referred to them with respect to Lord Pigot's conduct.

RESOLVED, that Copies of the above letter and resolutions go numbers in our packet by the Grenville, and that the Nabob be furnished with a copy of the said resolutions. Though these resolutions so materially affect Lord Pigot's conduct, and we could wish to furnish him also with a copy of them, as well as of the letter from the Governor-General and Council; yet as we are unanimously of opinion, that doing it at this time might give him uneasiness, and in his present situation might be considered by him as done with that intent, it is agreed for these reasons to defer sending them to his Lordship.

The President lays before the Board the following letters:

Translation of a letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, addressed to George Stratton, Esq. Behauder, Governor of Fort St. George.

The letter you was pleased to write me on the 25th August was brought to me on the 28th instant by Colonel Harper, who explained the contents of

of it. I am happy to find that you are Governor for the Company at Fort St. George. I have ſent you a dreſs in teſtimony of my joy, which I hope you will receive; I am under the greateſt obligations to the Company; they have relieved me from my difficulties; and have ſhewn me every mark of reſpect. I place entire confidence in them; they bear the burthen of my concerns. I am happy that the Council, thoſe entruſted by the Company, are united in their deſire of aſſiſting me; for this reaſon I pray to God for your ſucceſs. My Vackeels do always attend upon you; be pleaſed to ſhew favour to this country. What can I ſay more?

Tranſlation of two letters from the Vackeel at Tanjore, to his Vackeel here, 26th Aug. 1776.

Tranſlation of a letter from Opputo Roodragie Pundit, dated 26th Aug. 1776.

Your letter of the instant reached my hands; the encloſed letter therein for the King I delivered to him; the copy of the letter for Europe was peruſed by him; and thereupon the King ſent for the Padre, and propoſed to him in my preſence concerning the ſaid copy; and in two days hence it will be tranſlated into Engliſh and finiſhed; as ſoon as this is done, I will diſpatch it immediately.

What further affairs you have there, and whatever directions I am to follow here, pleaſe to adviſe me.

Tranſlation of a letter from Opputo Roodragie Pundit, dated 27th Aug. 1776.

Until Tueſday the 27th inſtant I am in health at Tanjore; I ſhall be very glad to hear of your health alſo; in company of the Padre the letter was wrote; as it chiefly conſiſted of the inland country accounts, was the reaſon of the delay; to-day it will be quite finiſhed, and to-morrow it ſhall be diſpatched to you by the Tappy without further delay: it ſhall be diſpatched to you to-morrow by the Tappier. What further affairs you have there, and whatever directions I am to follow here, pleaſe to adviſe me.

ORDERED, That Copies of the laſt letters be tranſmitted to the Governor-General, and Council of Bengal with our remarks thereon.

Read

Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel James.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council, at Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Your instructions reached me late yesterday; and agreeable thereto I this morning put them into execution, by reading at the head of the troops in garrison the Honourable Board's Proclamation.

With all due respects,

I am,

Honourable SIR, and SIRS,

Your most obedient and most

humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES.

Trichinopoly, 29th
Aug. 1776.

Before we take Sir Edward Hughes's letter of the —— under consideration, it is unanimously agreed, that the President requests his attendance at this Board to-morrow morning, that he may inform us what security he will give this Government for the preservation of the public peace, and that the tranquillity of the coast, now so perfectly established, will not be endangered by our consenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our authority.

Fort St. George, 4th September, 1776.

3d. Dispatched a letter to Mr. Daniel.

To Mr. James Daniel, Paymaster at Madura and Palamcotah.

SIR,

The President and Council having been pleased to appoint you a member of the Committee of Circuit, I am directed by them to desire you will de-

liver over your reſpective charges to the Commandants of Madura and Palamcotah, and repair to Vizagapatam, where the Committee is ordered to aſſemble, as ſoon as you conveniently can.

Fort St. George,
3d Sept. 1776.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Sec.

The Preſident this day wrote to Sir Edward Hughes.

DEAR SIR,

The Board is very deſirous of your meeting them in Council, and have unanimouſly deſired I would requeſt you would do ſo at any time that may be moſt ſuitable to you.

I have the honour to be with much eſteem,

DEAR SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

GEORGE STRATTON.

Fort St. George,
Tueſday Evening.

Fort St. George, 4th Sept. 1776.

At a CONSULTATION,

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Governor, Preſident.

Henry Brooke	Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

Sir Edward Hughes attending, is introduced into the Council by the Preſident, and being ſeated, the affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun and

and Serjeant Shaw, and the Commiſſion of Government being read to him, the following minute and queſtions are put to him.

The public conduct of Lord Pigot, by facts already publiſhed, having ſubverted the conſtitution of the Company, and tending to produce anarchy and confuſion, the maintenance of the Company's orders, as well as the neceſſity of public affairs, juſtify the ſteps that have been taken to prevent the further progreſs of Lord Pigot's illegal and arbitrary proceedings. The perfect knowledge of Lord Pigot's violent temper (as further appears by the above mentioned affidavits) led the Board to put ſuch reſtraint upon his perſon as the public peace ſeems to require. Whoever therefore claims an authority to give ſanctuary or protection to Lord Pigot, independent of the Preſident and Council, muſt previouſly give ſatisfactory aſſurances, that they will be anſwerable for the conſequences that may reſult prejudicial to the intereſt of the Eaſt-India Company, and that the public peace of the Carnatic will not thereby be diſturbed.

Will Sir Edward Hughes pledge himſelf to be reſponſible to the Board, and to their conſtituents, that the conduct of Lord Pigot, ſuppoſing him to be removed from under their authority, will be ſuch as that the tranquillity of the Company's ſettlements, and of the Carnatic, now happily eſtabliſhed, ſhall not thereby be diſturbed ?

Will Sir Edward Hughes be anſwerable that Lord Pigot, when removed from under the authority of the Preſident and Council, give no encouragement to meetings or aſſemblies, private or public, which may tend to divide the ſervants and dependants of the Company, by publiſhing a manifeſt, or orders, in oppoſition to the preſent Government ?

In caſe Lord Pigot is put on board the Saliſbury, in the manner Sir Edward Hughes by his letter deſires, will he be anſwerable that Lord Pigot does not land in any part of the Company's poſſeſſions in the Carnatic, or dependencies under this Preſidency ?

Will Sir Edward Hughes be anſwerable that Lord Pigot is forthcoming at any time the Board or the Eaſt-India Company require it ?

As Sir Edward Hughes has heard, among others, that Lord Pigot declares he does not value his life, but wants his liberty, will he be reſponſible that no individual, either European or native, ſhall ſuffer in his life, character or property, from his Lordſhip's being permitted to go on board his ſhip ?

Since

Since it is well known that Lord Pigot has declared he would march into the fortress of Fort St. George the moment he got the present restraint removed, such a step on the part of his Lordship might endanger his life, and that of many others; will Sir Edward Hughes be answerable for the consequences of such a step?

When the Salisbury must necessarily quit the coast on approach of the Monsoon, or any other account, supposing Lord Pigot to be on board, in what manner is Sir Edward then to dispose of his Lordship, so as to secure the public tranquillity?

The resolution of the President and Council, with respect to my Lord Pigot, having solely in view the preserving the public peace and tranquillity, which is equally the duty and inclination of Sir Edward Hughes, it is hoped he will not, directly or indirectly, give sanction to any proceedings contrary to the resolution of Council thus publicly declared.

Sir Edward Hughes informs the Board, that he cannot give an answer to any of these questions, until he receives the Board's reply to the letter on which these queries are grounded; that if the Board chuse to accompany their reply with these queries, or with any other papers, he will take them into consideration, and return such an answer to the Board, as shall appear to him proper. Sir Edward Hughes then withdrew.

RESOLVED, That the following letter be wrote to him.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in the East-Indies.

SIR,

We have had the honour to receive your letters of the 27th and 28th Aug. In that of the 28th you are pleased to inform us, that Lord Pigot has claimed the protection of the King's flag, and in consequence you require, in his Majesty's name, that Major Horne be ordered to give his Lordship safe conduct to your ship.

We should have done ourselves the honour to answer this letter much earlier, if the most urgent business had not interfered, and if we had not imagined

imagined that you were perfectly ſatisfied, that the reports and alarms concerning Lord Pigot's perſonal ſafety, were entirely groundleſs.

We have now the honour to acquaint you, that having taken your letter into our ſerious conſideration, we think it neceſſary, before we return a preciſe and poſitive anſwer, to requeſt you will be pleaſed to inform us, what ſecurity you can give to us, who are entruſted with the intereſts and affairs of the Company under this Preſidency, and with the preſervation of the public peace, that the tranquillity of the Coaſt, ſo perfectly eſtabliſhed, will not be endangered by our conſenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our own authority.

We have the honour to be,

Fort St. George,
4th Sept. 1776.

S I R,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

The Preſident lays before the Board, Tranſlation of the following letters delivered to him by the King of Tanjore's Vackeel; dated 25th Auguſt.

Tranſlation of a letter from Maha Rajah Tollaſagie, to his Vackeel Roodragie Pundit; dated 25th Auguſt, 1776; and the ſuperſcription directed to Moodu Kiſhnah.

I am in perfect health at Tanjore the 25th inſtant. In this province, in the Tallook of Veeſunganaudoo, ever ſince the eſtabliſhment of the country of Nellvor, the quit-rent, &c. belonging to Veeſunganaudoo, from 10th of Dec. 1773, to March 1776, the Nabob had the Government in his poſſeſſion, all which time Sydo Muctoomylee Cawn enjoyed it, and from 13th of April, 1776, to 27th of July, being 3 months and 14 days, I enjoyed it; and on the 28th Sydo Muctoomylee Cawn's people, 5 perſons, came here, and did ſet up their (Torenum) or ſignal, that the place was under his management, and went away, and ſoon after ſent Seapoys, and took away the ſaid ſignal from thence, and to this day none came here belonging to him.

In the Elligantoo Tallook Toondarambundy, &c. three villages are Punja ground (for the produce of ſmall grain) not Nunja (Paddy fields grounds.)

In the year 1767, Sydo Mucloomylee Cawn, Jamadare, included in his Jageer at Trichinopoly country by force, and enjoyed till the Nabob's government at Tanjore; now they are in my possession; since I took the government, and he has got no sunnud given by us, he did what he pleased, I cannot help it, because the time is so bad therefore you must acquaint this particularly to his Lordship. The said Sydo Mucloomylee Cawn is dead; his son lives with the Nabob.

The Government of || Negapatam owes me for last year's Peishcash five thousand Chuckrams, and twenty-one elephants, being for seven years, at three elephants per year.

The Government of † Tranquebar owes me for last year's Peishcah two thousand Chuckrams, besides for account they advance one thousand one hundred and fifty, in the produce they pay six thousand five hundred Chuckrams.

On the Government of ‡ Karical, to last year, being ten years, at one thousand Negapatam pagodas per year, comes to ten thousand pagodas due to me.

All which explain particularly to his Lordship: and if he writes to them, this money will come to my hands.

At the gutter of Anacut very little water came, I have therefore set people to repair it the 22d. and intend to go there myself the 30th Instant.

The 23d instant the Nabob's people came here, and put a stop to the reparing the said gutter, which my people advised me; this I made known in my letter of the 24th instant, by Tappy; it must have reached before now; you will therefore explain it to his Lordship, and send me an answer soon about it.

RESOLVED, that a copy of the above letter be transmitted to the Governor-General and Council.

Read

|| Dutch. † Danes. ‡ French.

Read the following Letter.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. Geooge.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

I have been honoured with your letter of the 27th inſtant; the Rajah ſeems to have altered his intentions with regard to going to the Anacut at preſent.

I have, according to your directions, ſent orders for one of the battalions of Sepoys doing duty in the country to proceed to Tanjore, where they will be quartered about twelve hundred yards from the garriſon; five companies of the other battalion are ordered to the different country forts; the Rajah has requeſted that the other five might remain in the country for the preſent, to aſſiſt his managers in their buſineſs, which I accordingly complied with.

The carriages in this garriſon that are repairable I am putting in order; and ſhould be glad you would pleaſe to inform me, if you approve of my making new ones for the guns that are deficient of them, as the Rajah has ſome wood in the garriſon, and promiſes to ſupply whatever is wanted for that purpoſe.

I beg leave to mention, that there are ſome ſmall country forts which are very trifling, but have ſome guns, ammunition, and ſtores in them; and which the Rajah himſelf thinks would be beſt to have withdrawn to this place; if it meets with your approbation, I will get him to ſend for what is in them to this garriſon: he particularly mentioned yeſterday Killenellv, and Shaw Cottah, which in my opinion are really not worth keeping; and the guns, ſtores, &c; might be of great ſervice here.

Accompanied I have ſent an account of the proviſions in this garriſon, I have deſired the Rajah to lay in more, which he promiſes faithfully to do immediately.

I remain with perfect reſpect,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Tanjore,
31ſt Auguſt, 1776.

H. HARPER.

The Board must here remark, that the foregoing‡ returns of provisions were the first accounts they had of any magazines of provisions in Tanjore, and were sent in consequence of our letter to Colonel Harper.

Minute of Council on the 4th September, 1776.

The military store-keeper being called upon to know what quantity of stores were at Tanjore, acquaints the Board, that on receiving an indent for stores from Lieutenant Colonel Harper at Tanjore, he found he had applied for a great number of shot of different calibres, which, by the return of stores for July, received at the same time, he observed there were no cannon for, which the military store-keeper desired his assistant to write to Lieutenant Colonel Harper to explain, requesting he would send him a complete return of all the stores in garrison. That a few days after, the military store-keeper took an opportunity of asking Lord Pigot, who had been at Tanjore, if there were any cannon there, who told him in answer, that the Nabob had taken away the guns, and every thing else out of the fort. The military store-keeper observed to his Lordship, that he understood there were a great number of cannon at Tanjore; his Lordship replied, if that was the case, they could not be of any use, and told him, that if shot were therefore sent, cannon should accompany them. Sometime after this, the military store-keeper received an answer from Lieutenant Colonel Harper, with a return of stores in the fort of Tanjore, dated 13th August, which, on comparing with the one he before received from him, contains the following articles more than in the first return.

Iron guns of different calibres, - - - - - -	95
Swivels - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	14.
Brass guns of different calibres - - - - - -	8.
Brass mortars ditto - - - - - - - - - -	4.
Iron mortars - - - - - - - - - - - -	1
Malabar guns - - - - - - - - - - - -	9.

Besides several other stores.

Ordered, that Lieutenant Colonel Harper be called upon to acquaint us with his reasons for not sending a complete return of all the stores when he first took the command of Tanjore, and that we expect from him a complete one of all the stores, provisions of every kind, and of all materials for building, &c.

AGREED.

‡ The returns are so irregularly entered, that it is impossible to adjust them with precision.

AGREED, That the following letter be wrote to Lieutenant Colonel Harper, at Tanjore.

To Lieutenant Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

WE have received your letter of the 31st ultimo, and approve of your having complied with the Rajah's request for the five companies of Sepoys.

Captain Maul and Lieutenant Heslop will immediately set out for Tanjore. They will cause the carriages to be forthwith repaired, and we shall hereafter give orders to have as many new carriages made as may be requisite.

It will be very proper to remove to Tanjore the guns, ammunition, &c. from the small forts.

We are glad you have sent in the returns of provisions, as we did not before know of any in that fort.

We are,

SIR,

Fort St. George,
4th September, 1776.

Your most obedient servant,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

Signed the following letter to the President and Council at Bombay.

To the Honourable William Hornby, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council at Bombay.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

WE take this opportunity of informing you, that the violent, arbitrary, and illegal proceedings of our late President, Lord Pigot, have compelled

us to the neceſſity of arreſting his perſon; and George Stratton, Eſq. the next ſenior ſervant of the Company, is of courſe Preſident of the Council.

We cannot here enter into a full explanation of the conduct of Lord Pigot; our proceedings have been ſent to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal; and we think it neceſſary to encloſe for your information copies of the letters we have written them, and a copy of the proclation publiſhed by us on this occaſion, which will explain to you the immediate cauſe of the meaſures we have taken.

We are with eſteem,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

Fort St. George,
4th September, 1776.

Read the following letters from Maſulipatam and Ongole.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

WE have been honoured with your commands of the 25th inſtant, encloſing a proclamation, which, agreeably to your orders, we have publiſhed here, and have ſent copies to be publiſhed at the ſeveral garriſons dependant upon this ſettlement.

We are with reſpect,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

CHARLES DESVOEUX,
JAMES HODGES,
ALEXANDER PRINGLE.

Maſulipatam,
30th Auguſt, 1776.

AGREED,

AGREED, That the following letter be wrote to Mr. Stone.

To John Maxwell Stone, Esq.

SIR,

Mr. Palmer having been appointed sea customer, and Mr. Jourdan garrison store-keeper, and rental general and scavenger, I am directed by the President and Council, to desire you will deliver over the books, papers, and balance of cash belonging to the said employs, to those gentlemen respectively; and I am further ordered to desire that you will deliver over the books, papers and balance of cash belonging to the committee of works, to Mr. Mackay, who is now President of that Committee.

I am,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

CHARLES OAKELEY, Secretary.

Fort St. George,
4th September, 1776.

At a CONSULTATION, 6th September, 1776.

PRESENT,

George Stratton, Esq. President, Governor.

HENRY BROOKE,	Sir ROBERT FLETCHER,	Friday, 6th September, 1776.
CHARLES FLOYER,	ARCHDALE PALMER,	
FRANCIS JOURDAN.	GEORGE MACKAY,	

Read the following letter from Commodore Sir Edward Hughes.

Salisbury, in Madrass Road, the 5th day of September, 1776.

SIR and GENTLEMEN,

I have received your letter of yesterday's date in answer to mine of the 28th day of August.

The

The requisition of a safe conduct for the noble Lord to my ship being made by me in the name of the King, and as no terms can therefore be admitted, on which to ground a compliance with that requisition, it follows that no other answer can be given by me, who am intrusted with the honour and dignity of his Majesty's flag, to your question of, What security I can give you, that the tranquillity of the Coast will not be endangered by your consenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under your own authority, than a repetition of what I before required, and now do again require of you in the King's name, that Major Horne be ordered to give Lord Pigot safe conduct to this ship, his Lordship having repeated his claim of protection from his Majesty's flag.

I am,

SIR and GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble servant,

EDWARD HUGHES.

George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

RESOLVED, That the following letter be wrote in answer to Sir Edward Hughes.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in India.

SIR,

We have had the honour to receive your letter of yesterday's date.

In reply, we beg leave to observe to you, that Lord Pigot having, as appears from facts already published, by his illegal and arbitrary conduct, subverted the constitution of the Company, and caused confusion and disorder in the settlement, the maintenance of the Company's orders, as well as the necessity of public affairs, in our opinion, justify the steps which have been taken to prevent the further progress of such proceedings. The experience

perience we have had of Lord Pigot's violent and impetuous disposition, (of which we gave striking proofs in the affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw, read to you at the Board on the 4th instant, and of which you yourself, Sir, had a recent instance in the letter of complaint written to you by the Nabob of the Carnatic, of the 3d of June) obliged us to put such restraints upon his Lordship's person, as the public peace seemed to require; and from the same motives we were induced, in answer to your letter of the 5th instant, to request you would inform us what security you could give, that the tranquillity of the Coast will not be endangered by our consenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our own authority.

Since you are pleased to decline giving to us any security whatever, in consequence of that request, we are under the necessity of acquainting you, that we cannot, consistently with the important trust reposed in us, comply with the requisition you have again repeated, that Major Horne be ordered to give Lord Pigot safe conduct to your ship.

As loyal subjects to his Majesty, and faithful servants to the Company, we shall always shew the greatest veneration to the sacred name of his Majesty, and the utmost respect to the British flag; but having no proof before us that his Majesty empowers any of his officers to require the removal of any servant of the Company, in a similar situation with Lord Pigot, from under the authority of the Company's Government, we beg leave to add this as another reason why we cannot comply with the requisition you have made. We have the honour to be,

SIR,

Fort St. George,
6th Sept. 1776.

Your most obedient humble servants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

The President lays before the Board, translation of a letter from Appoo at Tanjore, to Moodu Kistnah.

Translation of a letter from Appoo, to Moodu Kistnah; dated 25th of August, 1776.

The letter, dated the 21st instant, wrote by Vackeel Roodrajee Pundit to Maha Rajah, arrived safe, and he perused it; in which, in regard to Dub-

beer Pundit, his Lordſhip mentioned, that it is not proper to diſplace him at preſent, as he was uſing his endeavours with the Nabob, &c. perſons for the King's benefit; till this buſineſs ſucceed, Dubbeer muſt be treated with civilities; this made the King ſo very much diſpleaſed that he eat nothing till the evening; the King upon which ſaid, that he underwent much hardſhip in priſon under the Nabob, for three years; afterwards he was reſtored to his kingdom, and was in hopes of living in peace and tranquillity; but inſtead of that, if he is to remain under Dubbeer Pundit, what advantage is it for him to have the Government? and did alſo ſay that his Lordſhip was Kiſtnah Sawmy, Rammah Sawmy, and father to him; that his whole dependence being in his father's good will; and if the father is wanting in making the ſon's mind at eaſe and quietneſs, who has he to rely on elſe? He is apprehenſive that he has done ſomething amiſs, and therefore he has incurred the father's diſpleaſure; let a ſon be guilty of ever ſo great a fault, the father and mother muſt forgive that crime, and make his ſon's mind glad, and not be vexed with him; it is his misfortune that he is angry with him, and therefore his remaining here will be of no benefit to him; it is much better for him to go where his father dwells: and further, if he is not to command his ſervant, but to hearken to what he ſays, it is much the beſt for him to have no government at all; if Dubbeer had ſerved him with fidelity, would he be diſcharged from his ſervice? for his action is, as he was the ſecond Nabob, and breeds animoſities, ſtriving all in his power to hurt him; and ſtill if he is to uſe him with civilities, what to ſay in this caſe being unknown to him; let Dubbeer govern the place, for he intends to go to Madras.

I am ſurprized what makes his Lordſhip have ſo much regard to Dubbeer; beſides you muſt think Dubbeer being in the management will make the Government better, and that in his abſence things will not go on ſo well; formerly what buſineſs he carried on here is unknown to me, but now I can't find him ſuch able perſon; he is not ſincere in his maſter's buſineſs; therefore if you agree to what the King ſays, he will be well pleaſed, as the King truſts you next to God. I think your agreeing to his deſire is the beſt, and I think you muſt look for a favourable opportunity, and do the ſaid buſineſs; and if you write to him that you will do agreeable to his deſire, he will look upon it as the Government was juſt then put under his hand; otherwiſe for all the Government is under him, it is of no ſatisfaction to him.

You are very ſenſible gentlemen; What can I ſay further in it? therefore you may do as you think proper.

Pleaſe

Pleafe to advife me for my further proceedings.

P. S. The King and Dubbeer can no way agree together; as I was ordered to act agreeable to the King's mind, I have wrote the above according to his defire, and have not done any of it myfelf: I would not undertake to do any fuch thing had I ten heads. I defire you will write a few lines to me, that the King may find pleafure and fatisfaction therein.

RESOLVED, That the following letter be wrote to the Governor-General and Council at Fort William.

To the Honourable Warren Haftings, Efq. Governor-General &c. Council, at Fort William.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Since clofing our letter to your honour, &c. under this date, we have received from Commodore Sir Edward Hughes his anfwer to our letter, dated the ——— Copy of which we herewith enclofe, with our reply thereto, as alfo tranflate of a letter from Oppoo at Tanjore, to Moodoo Kiftnah at this place; dated the 25th ultimo.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Fort St. George,
the 6th Sept. 1776.

Your moft obedient humble fervants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

P.S. The Nabob has juft fent to the Prefident the accompanying letter, which he defired may be forwarded to your Honour, &c.

Read letter from the Chief and Council at Mafulipatam, dated the 1ft inftant.

ORDERED, That the confideration of this letter be deferred till afte the difpatch of the Grenville, with fuch letters as may be received in the civil department.

Read

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Efq. Prefident and Governor &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and GENTLEMEN,

Agreeable to your directions I have defired to know from Major Stevens, what has been done to the works at Tanjore fince the reftoration of the Rajah, and what further he thinks neceffary to be undertaken for the fecurity of the place, and the accommodation of the troops. I have now the honour to enclofe you his anfwer, and remain very refpectfully,

Honourable Sir and Gentlemen,

Fort St. George,
6th Sept. 1776.

Your moft obedient and moft humble fervant,

PATRICK ROSS,
Lieut. Col. and Chief Engineer.

To Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Rofs, Chief Engineer.

SIR,

In anfwer to your commands from the Honourable Board, I have to inform you, that when Lord Pigot was at Tanjore, he directed me to make a plan for barracks, which would contain 200 Europeans in the little fort, and to conftruct them in fuch a manner, that they might hereafter be enlarged for a greater number; and having approved of a defign, which I explained to him, for fecuring the little fort againft the great one, he ordered me to lay the whole down on paper, and forward them to the Prefiednсy to lay before the Board for their approbation; directing me in the mean time to level all the inhabitants houfes and buildings, except the large Pagoda, which was to be referved to the Bramins, and to leave ftanding, for the prefent, fuch buildings as were occupied by the officers as quarters, and by the Europeans as barracks.

I accordingly formed my defigns, and forwarded them with a letter to his Lordfhip under date the 14th of May laft; a copy of which I did myfelf the pleafure to enclofe you, and to which I beg leave to refer you for particulars.

By

By the middle of July laſt I had levelled the houſes, &c. as I was directed, leaving the great Pagoda for the Bramins, and ſuch as were occupied by the troops and ſtores, as alſo a ſmall brick Pagoda, which ſtood near the centre of the Fort, and being included in the intended Seapoy Barracks, I thought would ſerve as a regimental ſtore room, or might become otherwiſe ſerviceable. I had alſo lowered many high grounds, and with the earth filled up ſome of the loweſt places, widened the ramparts on the Weſt and South fronts, made it good on part of the Eaſt front, and raiſed my intended rampart againſt the great town as high as I could conveniently, without having the revetement firſt begun; and having thus already exceeded my orders, I deſiſted from doing any more, and applied for leave to come up to the Preſidency.

As I have not particularly ſaid any thing reſpecting my deſigned rampart, otherwiſe than by deſcribing it fully on the ſpot to his Lordſhip, it may not be unneceſſary for me to obſerve, that I propoſed raiſing the preſent revetement of the Fauſſe-braye, (which forms as it were the Gorge of the Little Fort) with brick and chunam, to the height of the rampart of the Large Fort oppoſite to it, or perhaps ſomething higher, and to take away the parapet wall of the Great Fort, to the third tower on each ſide of the gate, in order to expoſe the town to a view of the Little Fort. Againſt this revetement I propoſed an earthen rampart, which was to form the preſent rampart of the Little Fort, at P and M, ſo as to complete it all round the Little Fort. Under this rampart I propoſed an arched paſſage and guard-room at the gate O, to communicate with the town; and the ſame at P or Q to communicate with the country: the paſſage over the ditch I propoſed to be filled up with earth, rivetted with maſonry to the height of the Terre-plain of the Fauſſe-braye, except a Draw-bridge of 10 or 12 feet next the town. If this gate of communication with the country had been made at Q, I then only propoſed to have at P a paſſage for a ſally-port, and in either caſe to have had a ſally-port at M. In the ſame manner as above-deſcribed, I meant to raiſe a part of the Fauſſe-braye wall of the Little Fort, where it joins to that of the Great Fort to the Northward, and to have joined it to the before-mentioned; and without the two extremities I meant to cut away the old revetement, &c. for 20 or 30 feet, as low as the Terre-plain of the Fauſſe-braye, to ſeparate the whole from the Great Fort. At Q P and M, there have formerly been gates; but are now walled up, except a part of P, which has been left open as a ſally-port. The communication I propoſed acroſs the ditch is repreſented in the plan to be only 15 feet broad; but as it will be neceſſary to raiſe parapet walls (particularly if it be made at

P) in lieu of rails, to keep paſſengers from falling into the ditch, I would have it made 18 or 20 feet wide, and I would recommend it to be made at P, as it would be more ſecure; and if the paſſage be made a good breadth, I doubt not but it may prove as commodious as if it was made at Q; in which point and elegance I think Q only has the preference.

Though it will appear by the plan that the revetement I propoſed to raiſe has its defences againſt the Little Fort, yet I choſe to follow it to ſave expenſe, as well as time; and as the defences ſeem to me to be equally capable of being turned the other way, they will in my opinion be a ſufficient protection againſt any thing that is to be apprehended from the Great Fort.

What I would recommend to be immediately done, is to complete the propoſed rampart; but in caſe the reform be not determined upon, and that it is likely to be delayed ſome time, I would have a mud wall erected on, or a little within that which was intended to be done in brick, and form the rampart againſt it with the earth, which is left in the reverſe of the rampart Q P for that purpoſe, leaving the paſſage for the Gate-way at O open, but to repair the gate, and provide it with good faſtenings, that it may at proper hours be ſhut againſt the town. At all events to take down the preſent parapet wall of the Great Fort to the extent propoſed, and to make a communication from the Little Fort to the country at P or Q, as may be thought proper.

I alſo beg leave to obſerve to you, that the inner walls of the Little Fort are very high and much expoſed, which I think might be lowered very conſiderably without ſubjecting it too much to ſurprize, or deſtroying the neceſſary command over the adjacent country. I do not apprehend, as the Fauſſe-braye wall is high and difficult of acceſs, that any danger proceeds from lowering the inner wall to 15 feet, ſhould it be practicable; it is now upwards of thirty. The cavaliers which ſtand on the ramparts ought in my opinion to be taken away, nor do I apprehend their foundations will admit of letting them ſtand, ſhould the rampart be lowered. After the rampart is brought to a proper height, a good parapet ſhould be placed upon it.

As to temporary magazines, I think the Coberam, oppoſite the Great Pagoda in the Little Fort, will contain a conſiderable quantity of powder. It is now uſed as a magazine, and being ſhut up, I never ſaw the inſide of it, therefore cannot ſay how much it will hold. The little brick Pagoda, which I left ſtanding near the centre of the Little Fort, will contain a quan-

tity

city I ſuppoſe of 200 barrels, or upwards. There is a brick building which ſtands near the above-mentioned Pagoda, and which I converted into a ſtore-houſe and cook-room for the Europeans, would, if neceſſary, with ſome little repairs, contain ſome hundred barrels of powder; but in that caſe a ſtore-room and cooking-place will be immediately wanted. I know of no other method of ſecuring any powder in the Little Fort but the Great Pagoda, where I ſuppoſe a Choultry might be obtained for ſuch a purpoſe, and by being walled in with brick and chunam, or even mud, might make a good temporary magazine.

I believe there is a great quantity of gun-powder lodged in choultries round the large Fort: I heard the conductor ſay, he concluded it to be ſome thouſand barrels: I ſaw ſome of it, and it ſeemed to be very clean and good. His Lordſhip deſired the Rajah would have one of the apartments of the granary in the Great Fort fitted up as a magazine to receive the powder, and ordered me to ſee it properly executed; but it was but juſt cleared of the grain a few days before I came away; and whether any thing has been ſince done towards the converting it into a magazine, I cannot ſay.

As the ſeaſon is now far advanced, it is impoſſible to provide any barracks to ſhelter the troops during the enſuing Monſoon. The houſe which now contains the Europeans may make a very good ſhift, by building mud walls to encloſe the inſides, which are now open; it muſt have the tiles removed, and ſome windows put in the exterior walls; alſo it will require ſome doors and windows to be put in the walls, which I have ſaid will be neceſſary to build; the building thus fitted may be able I believe to contain 300 men, as the men coming off duty may take the births of thoſe they have relieved.

The battalion of Seapoys which I left at Tanjore was lodged in tents in the Fauſſe-braye, which ſituation will be very uncomfortable and unhealthy in the Monſoon; perhaps ſome of the Gentoo caſt might be permitted to live in the Choultries in the Great Pagoda of the Little Fort; the reſt muſt be either permitted to build huts between the South wall of that Pagoda and the rampart, or to be provided with barracks or huts in the Great Fort, as I think it is too late even to build a temporary ſhed for them; it will require ſome time I apprehend to procure bambooes for ſuch a purpoſe, and I know of nothing that can be immediately had to ſubſtitute in their ſtead. Without the town, at the diſtance of a ſhort mile from the Little Fort, is a building which we called the Painted Choultry; this, and ſome tiled ſheds which

which were erected for the purpose of making powder, may I think contain one and a half or two battalions of Seapoys, as many of them would build huts near it for their families; the situation is dry, and I dare say healthy.

Many of the officers were living in tents when I left Tanjore, and I know of no other method of accommodating them during the Monsoon, unless they were to be permitted to live in some of the old quarters that were formerly occupied in the Great Fort: Many of these, when I left Tanjore, were empty; for being new houses built by the Nabob's officers, they could not belong to the inhabitants, who, I suppose, had been paid for their old houses and grounds.

There are at Tanjore between eighteen and twenty Lacks of bricks, and three or four thousand Parrahs of Chunam, which belong to the Nabob, and were provided by me when I was there on his account, to finish a counterscarp which I had begun from Vellum to the North Gate: these materials lay principally on the glacis of that front, and the remainder are on the West rampart of the Little Fort.

The Nabob's store-keeper had provided a considerable quantity of wood, to erect a powder-mill at the painted Choultry; the greatest part of it is laid at that place, and some pieces were between the river Venar and the fort of Tanjore; whether any remained in the woods where it was cut I can't say. This timber, I understood, the Rajah meant to bring into the granary-yard for the use of the magazine, which, I have said, was to be fitted up there.

There is an esplanade marked round the whole fort of Tanjore, at the distance of seven hundred and fifty yards from the Fausse-braye wall, Ramasang Coib and a mosque to the southward of the Little Fort being two of its marks; the others are small mud piers, about twelve feet high and five diameter at the base: these should be erected with more durable materials, and made conspicuous, that the buildings may not be brought too near the fort.

These

These are the principal pieces of information I can at present recollect, and I hope they will fully answer your purpose to satisfy the Honourable Board in any thing they may require.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George, 4th September, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENS, D. Eng.

A true Copy. (Signed) PATRICK ROSS.

The President lays before the Board translate of a letter from the Nabob to the Governor-General, enclosed in the last letter wrote to the President by the Nabob.

Translate of a Copy of a Letter to Governor-General Hastings, *dated the 6th Day of the Month* Rujub, *in the Year Hegyra* 1190.‡

WHEN I wrote you last by the king's ship Swallow, I was oppressed with so much trouble and anxiety, that I did not imagine it possible any thing could happen to occasion me more; but Lord Pigot, prompted by his enmity, has set on foot a new contrivance, the effect of which might be the ruin of my domestic peace and of my authority over my own family. Governor Pigot and the Gentlemen of the Madrass Council made a strict agreement with me, in the year 1760, that they would not give protection to any of my people in Madrass. I send you enclosed for your perusal a copy of the article of that agreement, and of other articles extracted from our correspondence. Lord Pigot, notwithstanding that agreement, and contrary to common justice, has not only given protection to some of my family, but has been the means of inveigling him away: it will give you surprize to hear of it: the circumstances are as follow. Keer-ul-dien Cawn is the fifth of that house, from father to son, that have been servants in my family; notwithstanding which, his father, before the last siege of Madrass, having behaved treacherously towards me whilst I was encamped at the Mount, came one night into my bed-chamber with two loaded pistols and a drawn sword; and this same Lord Pigot and the gentlemen of the then Council pressed me much to put him to death, which I declined doing. This fact is known to every one. Afterwards, when the father of Keer-ul-dien Cawn died, and he and his brothers were left in an infant state, I took compassion on their condition, brought them up and educated them;

 and,

‡ About the 20th of August, 1776.

and, after having married my daughter to Keer-ul-dien Cawn, I advanced him in honours, and gave him the rent of Ramnaut and Shockungaw. But, when he had got possession of the money belonging to the rent, he then laid his hands upon the property of the husbandmen and tenants, seized upon the wealth of the Polygars who had fled, and ruined those countries. A Tunkaw on the Ramnaut country, for 60,000 Chuckrams had been given to Mr. Benfield. Keer-ul-dien Cawn confirmed that gentleman's Gomastah, and, without paying him the amount of the Tunkaw, affixed the Gomastah's seal by force to a paper, acknowledging the receipt of the money: in a word, he is become so shameless, so treacherous, so slanderous, so great a liar, and so ungrateful, that it is impossible for me to recite all the instances of his misconduct.—Three of his brothers ran away with him; they had also formerly run away, but were taken and for a long time confined; after which they were released, and employed in different affairs.—When I was informed of Keer-ul dien Cawn's proceedings at Ramnaut, I called him up from that district, and found, upon his arrival here, that, not satisfied with all the wealth he had got possession of in the manner abovementioned, he had squandered likewise among sharpers and rabble, all the money and jewels which, according to the Hindostan custom, (a custom subsisting also, I am informed, among the Europeans,) I had given to my daughter, on her marriage, as a stock for her whole life.—Lord Pigot one day came to me and told me, with an appearance of uneasiness, that an European, having a demand of a few hundred Pagodas on Keer-ul-dien Cawn, had put him into court, that the officers of the court were looking for him, and that he had no power to stop their proceedings. Upon hearing this, I began to enquire into Keer-ul-dien Cawn's affairs, and discovered that he was in debt, to Europeans and others, to the amount of near two Lacks of Pagodas. Considering therefore that, if I allowed him to go about, he would be in danger of being seized by his creditors, or would go on in his old course of keeping low company, I kept him in my own gardens, where were also my son Syfe-ul-Mulck, three others of my sons, and others my relations; hoping that by these means profligate and mean people would be deprived of any opportunity of debauching him, that he would reform his conduct, and not borrow any more money. As soon as he had entered into strict engagements with me that he would avoid all such courses in future, and had brought some creditable persons to stand security for his conduct, I was beginning again to shew him favour; but Lord Pigot, in order to interfere in my domestic affairs and injure me in my family government, inveigled away Keer-ul-dien Cawn: accordingly, on the ——————— he fled, with three of his brothers, before break of day, over the garden wall, and went to Lord Pigot. What can be a

stronger

stronger proof of Lord Pigot's inveigling him away than that? Not being satisfied merely with shewing him the politest treatment, he provided also a handsome house for his reception, furnished him with money for his expenses, supplied him with every thing he had occasion for, and appointed a guard of the Company's Seapoys to attend his person. He shews him every instance of attention in his power, takes him into his chaise, and carries him with him to the Company's gardens; in the honours he pays him, sets him up in competition with me and my sons, and fills his mind with hopes. From the beginning of my friendship with the Company, it has been a fixed agreement between me and the successive Governors and Councils, that if any of my servants, even to a common Seapoy, should run away or enter into the Company's service, they are to deliver him up to me; and that, if any soldier or Seapoy of theirs should run away from them, I am to search for him carefully in my country, and seize and deliver him up to the Company. The inveigling away, and giving protection to Keer-ul-dien Cawn and his brothers, is contrary to this rule: they are foolish boys, and have not such rank or consequence as that their running away should be hurtful or detrimental to my affairs; but the seducing and protecting them may be a means of breeding insolence in others, and of distressing me materially: I shall appear insignificant in the eyes of all the country powers, who will observe that the Company and I were formerly not upon this footing, but that now engagements are not attended to. As I have now stated to you the whole of Lord Pigot's conduct, I will take the liberty to enquire, What rights there are I am possessed of which Lord Pigot has not violated? such as the rights of a father, the rights of a master, the rights of an ally of the king of England, the rights of a prince, the rights of a friend; for I am the sincerest friend of the English nation, and it is a right superior to all others. I most earnestly entreat you to consider the whole of Lord Pigot's conduct from the beginning to this day, and then determine, whether, *without removing Lord Pigot from the Government* it is possible for you to preserve the peace and security of the Carnatic and of the Company's affairs? My complaints against Lord Pigot are particularized here-under, and every one of them is publickly known by all the English gentlemen to be founded on fact and truth: other complaints there are likewise of English gentlemen, which are of consequence and highly disgraceful; and the causes of Lord Pigot's coming to India, and of his enmity towards me, will thereby be made apparent; but it is not my business to state those particulars. My *first complaint* is, that Lord Pigot, after his arrival here and making known to me the Company's orders, notwithstanding I did not oppose the said orders, used his endeavours to prevent my stating real facts and circumstances,

and

and to hinder me from representing to my friends my own rights, and the detriment and disgrace the affairs and interests of the Company would suffer from carrying their orders into execution relative to Tanjore. My *second complaint*, that notwithstanding I consented with the utmost pleasure to receive a garrison of my friends troops into the fort of Tanjore, and such garrison had accordingly, a month before, been received into the fort; yet Lord Pigot, in order to flatter Tuljajee, set out from Madrass on this business with an army, although a single Company's Peon would have been sufficient for what there was to be done at Tanjore. By this means the honour of my friendship with the English nation was greatly injured. *Complaint the third.* Notwithstanding I wrote public orders to my Naib Nujeib Cawn, and, by means of Mr. Chambers, repeatedly explained the contents of them to Lord Pigot, to whom I delivered them, that he might send them to Colonel Harper; and notwithstanding Lord Pigot agreed that he would always keep my Naib with a thousand of my cavalry in the fort of Tanjore; that my flag should fly there; that the crops should be applied to the discharge of my arrears to my troops in manner as I had assigned them; all which particulars will be apparent by the order formerly sent; yet Lord Pigot has violated these engagements, and not performed a single one of them. This is wholly repugnant to the English faith. *Complaint the fourth.* Lord Pigot employed the troops which he carried with him to Tanjore, and which I pay to this day, to seize and collect all the grain in that country, which I had, at a very great expense, caused to be sown, and had assigned to my creditors. By this means the affairs of my creditors and army were thrown into such distresses as are not easily to be repaired. *Complaint the fifth.* Lord Pigot, by seizing the Dubbeer, and others my clerks and agents, and carrying them out of my country, with my accounts and papers, has violated the guarantee of the king and parliament, established in behalf of my rights; *and for this he is deserving of the severest punishment*, having by this conduct been the means of bringing dishonour on his king and nation in India. The consequence will be, that none of the princes of India will henceforward have any reliance on the guarantee of the English nation, unless Lord Pigot be *duly punished.* You and the gentlemen of your Council are men of sense and wisdom: I have therefore not a doubt that you will *remove this person from his office*; for this man has been the cause of destroying the foundation of the authority of the king and parliament and English nation in India; the foundation of their authority being their faith and honour. *Complaint the sixth.* Lord Pigot, under the sanction of executing the Company's orders, seized upon the fort of Vellum, (where, for five years past an English garrison has been kept at a considerable expense,) and expelled my Killedar with disgrace. He like-

wise

wiſe ſeized other villages, which Tuljagee gave up, together with Vellum, as a compenſation for the expenſes of the firſt expedition, by a treaty concluded by means of Mr. Du Pré, in the year 1771. *Article the ſeventh.* Lord Pigot, after his return from Tanjore, ſhewed me a draught of a letter, written in his hand, and which is now in my poſſeſſion, deſiring me to write one conformably to it. The contents of the letter were, "that I "forgave and paſſed over his proceedings in the affair of Tanjore, and "delivered the whole of my affairs into his management." He at the ſame time preſſed me earneſtly to furniſh him with ſome facts, by means of which he might be enabled to diſmiſs Sir Robert Fletcher, Mr. Mackay, and others of the Council who oppoſed him.—When he ſaw that I had more ſenſe than to write him ſuch a letter, he became very much my enemy, and in order to do me a miſchief, he ſent his people in the night to ſeize and take ſome people belonging to me, who were in my garden. One day he came to me himſelf, and threatened me, declaring he would put an European guard over me, which, to a prince, is worſe than death; from all theſe proceedings of Lord Pigot, and from his inveigling away the people of my family, you will be ſenſible, *there is an immediate neceſſity for removing him from the government of Madraſs.* If you do not immediately determine on this meaſure, it is impoſſible for me to deſcribe to you the anxiety I ſhall be under for my own perſonal welfare and preſervation, and the welfare and preſervation of the Company's affairs. As I have not enlarged upon all theſe circumſtances merely for the ſake of my own affairs, but alſo for the ſake of thoſe of the Company, as connected with this part of the world, I have therefore the ſame kind of reliance upon your juſtice, as I ſhould have in a dark night on the ſun's riſing the next morning: What can I ſay more?

Reſolved that the different employs at the Preſidency be filled up in the following manner.

E. Warehouſe-keeper,	Mr. Jourdan	1
Sea Cuſtomer,	Mr. Palmer	1
Grain-keeper,	Mr. Jourdan	3
Rental General,	(Mr. Jourdan)	4
Committee of Works,		
Military Store-keeper,	Mr. Brooke,	1

Civil Store-keeper,	Mr. Palmer,	3
Land Cuftomer,	Mr. Jourdan,	2
Import Warehoufe-keeper,	Mr. Palmer	2
Civil Paymafter,	Mr. Brooke,	2
Military Paymafter,	Mr. Brooke,	3
Affay Mafter,	Mr. Mack ay	
Mint Mafter and Cafh Keeper,	Prefident,	

Committee of Works.	Committee of Stores.
Mr. Mackay,	Sir Robert Fletcher,
Col. Capper and Col. Rofs,	Mr. Brooke.

At a CONSULTATION, 9th September, 1776.

PRESENT,

George Stratton, Efq. Prefident and Governor.

Monday, 9th September, 1774.

HENRY BROOKE, SIR ROBERT FLETCHER,
CHARLES FLOYER, ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN. GEORGE MACKAY.

Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher.

Sir Robert Fletcher begs to recall to the recollection of the Board, that he did repeatedly complain in Council feveral months ago, of the very unaccountable flow progrefs of the fortifications, and that he then told the Board, he would take an opportunity of having the caufes of his complaints enquired into before the departure of a fhip for England; and Sir Robert now requefts, that an enquiry may be made into this important bufinefs.

In confequence of which, the following Letter is wrote to the Chief Engineer.

To

To Lieutenant Colonel Ross, Chief Engineer.

SIR,

The President and Council are pleased to direct you to furnish them with a present state of the fortifications of this place, and that you do acquaint them at the same time, in what manner their progress has been retarded, and likewise, that you do further inform them, what you judge most expedient to be done for it's immediate security, in case of an emergency.

I am,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

Fort St. George,
9th September, 1776.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Read Letter from Sir Edward Hughes.

Salisbury, in Madrass Road, the 7th Day of September, 1776.

SIR and GENTLEMEN,

I have just now received your letter of yesterday, and confess I should have been disappointed, to have been told that you had any proofs before you, that his Majesty had empowered any of his officers to require the removal of any servant of the Company, in a similar situation with Lord Pigot, from under the authority of the Company's Government, as I had believed the case to be unexampled.

You think you cannot, consistently with the important trust reposed in you, comply with the requisition made by me, in the name of his Majesty, a name by me deemed very high security, and which I have power to use in national concerns of the utmost importance; and as I feel in my breast that I have done my duty to his Majesty, and to my country, in making the requisition,

requisition, I have only to add, that you have taken on yourselves any and all the ill consequences which may arise from the refusal.

I am,

SIR and GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble servant,

EDWARD HUGHES.

George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Draught of the following Letter to the Rajah of Tanjore is now read and approved.

To the Rajah of Tanjore.

SIR,

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter in answer to the one I wrote to you the 25th ultimo, which you tell me was explained to you by Lieut. Colonel Harper, expressing the happiness you felt on my being Governor of this place, and of the obligation you are under to the Company, in relieving you from the many difficulties you had been under, and that you should always place an entire confidence in them. These assurances give me great pleasure, and I again repeat, that you may always rely on my support and protection; I have only to request, that you will on all occasions open your mind to me, and without the least reserve express what you wish, as it is my earnest desire, as well as that of the Council, to make you and all your people happy and contented; if you have any grievance that you wish to have redressed, acquaint me therewith, that I may shew my readiness to relieve you.

I think it necessary to acquaint you, the present Council and myself disapproved of the appointment of a Chief and Council and Resident at Tanjore, for we wish to convince you, that the management of your government shall always rest on yourself; that it is not our intention to interfere therein,

therein, and I ſhall take particular care that no ſervant of the Company's ſhall do ſo directly or indirectly.

It having been repreſented that your mind was diſturbed with fears and alarms, the Council were ignorant on what theſe aſſertions could be grounded, ſince you never expreſſed them in any letters laid before the Board; I muſt now therefore expreſs my own wiſh, as well as their's, that if any ſuch fears and alarms do exiſt in your breaſt, that you will looſe no time in repreſenting them to me, that I may ſhew my readineſs in relieving you; at the ſame time I am to requeſt, that any matter which you wiſh to repreſent to the Company, reſpecting this or on any other ſubject, you will immediately acquaint me with the particulars, that I may make the ſame known to them by the ſhip now under diſpatch.

If the Vackeel here, or any ſervant placed about your perſon, ſhould in any reſpect be diſagreeable to you, you are at liberty to remove them, or not, as you think proper; for I ſhall always look upon it as an indignity to your rank, if Moodoo Kiſtnah, or any Dubaſh whatever, ſhall preſume to dictate to you in the choice of your ſervants, or to interfere in your Government. I have given ſtrict orders to this purpoſe to my Dubaſh, and no man whatever has a right to make uſe of my name in any interference in your affairs. This,with the aſſurances given you in this letter will convince you of my good intentions, and that it is my determined reſolution to ſupport you in your Government to the utmoſt of my power.

I am,

S I R,

Fort St. George,
7th September, 1776.

Your ſincere friend,

GEORGE STRATTON.

The Preſident lays before the Board the following Letter from Major Horne to him.

The Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident and Governor, &c.

Honourable S I R,

Captain Panton, of his Majeſty's Ship Swallow, has been here on a viſit to Lord Pigot, and delivered a parcel and a letter to his Lordſhip. I have

ſome

fome doubts whether the letter was a public difpatch or not, but as Captain Panton, I underftood, came from the Commodore's houfe, he could not be unacquainted with the fituation of affairs; and as there were company prefent when he arrived, I judged it would not be proper to queftion Captain Panton with refpect to the letter he had delivered to his Lordfhip being of a public or private nature, in refpect to the commiffion he holds in his Majefty's fervice, and alfo as many letters are forwarded to his Lordfhip from you, Sir, and the fecretary; however I conceive it my duty to inform you of Captain Panton having delivered a letter, as it is poffible it may be a public difpatch, and to requeft your further inftructions, if I am to examine the addrefs before any perfon delivers a letter to his Lordfhip.

I am with refpect,

Honourable SIR,

Your moft obedient humble fervant,

MATTHEW HORNE.

Mount,
9th September, 1776.
9 P.M.

RESOLVED, that the confideration of the above letter be deferred until we know whether Sir Edward Hughes has any packet for this Prefidency.

Tuefday, 10th September, 1776.

At a CONSULTATION,

PRESENT,

George Stratton, Efq. Governor, Prefident.

Henry Brooke,	Sir Robert Fletcher,
Charles Floyer,	Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,	George Mackay.

The Prefident acquaints the Board, that he has juft now received a note from the Commodore's fecretary, accompanying a box packet for the Court of Directors, which came by his Majefty's floop the Swallow from Bengal.

The

The Board remark, that the box packet above-mentioned is received without any letter of advice from the Governor-General and Council in Bengal, from which circumſtance they are led to conclude, that the letter mentioned in Major Horne's addreſs of yeſterday to have been delivered by Captain Panton to Lord Pigot at the Mount, is that which ought to have accompanied the box packet. In conſequence the following letter is now wrote to the Governor-General and Council.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſq. Governor-General, &c. Council at Fort-William.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

We had the honour to write to you the 6th inſtant.

His Majeſty's ſloop the Swallow imported here yeſterday, by which conveyance we did not receive any letter from you, but the Commodore's ſecretary has juſt now ſent in a packet from your Honour, &c. for the Court of Directors, which we ſhall be careful to forward by the Grenville.

In a letter we received yeſterday by the Hector from the Court of Directors, dated 5th April, they encloſe intelligence collected by Mr. Churchill, late third mate of the ſhip Aſhburnham, arrived in England on the French ſhip Terré.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Fort St. George,
10th September, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

P. S. We have received a packet for your Honours, &c. by the Hector, which we ſhall forward by the firſt ſea conveyance that offers.

And the Preſident is deſired to write the following letter to Major Horne.

To

To Major Horne.

SIR,

Late laſt night I received your letter, acquainting me of Captain Panton having yeſterday paid Lord Pigot a viſit, and delivered to him a packet which you knew not whether it was of a publick or private nature. You will take an opportunity of aſking Lord Pigot this queſtion, acquainting him that you did not think it proper to ſpeak to him at the time, or before on the ſubject, ſince it was delivered to him when in company of others. As I have reaſon to believe that this packet is a public one from Bengal, it will be neceſſary that you ſhould ſee the direction of every letter delivered to his Lordſhip, that in caſe any one is brought to him in future, addreſſed to this Government, you may receive and forward it here immediately. At the ſame time you will obſerve, that any private letters that may hereafter come by the tappals, or by ſhipping, for Lord Pigot, *theſe* letters ſhall be ſent to you by me.

I am,

SIR,

Fort St. George,
10th September, 1776.

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Read the following Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident and Governor, &c. Council.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

I have received your letter dated the 2d inſtant. Since my letter of the 29th I have often been with the Rajah, and have taken every opportunity to convince him, that he would always be ſupported by the Honourable Company; I have now the pleaſure to inform you, that he ſeems quite eaſy in his mind. I have acquainted him with your laſt aſſurances of your firm reſolution to ſupport him in all his juſt rights, which afforded him great

great satisfaction. He replied, which he has frequently repeated before, that he would ever depend on the Honourable Company, and that he was ready to sacrifice his life in their cause. I mentioned also to the Rajah, that the charges exhibited against Comaroo had been strictly enquired into, and that he was acquitted thereof, and that you had given him permission to proceed to Tanjore to settle his private business. He told me, his coming at this time, when the inhabitants are employed all over the country in cultivating the lands, would be attended with a great inconveniency, as it must take a number of people from their business in order to settle with him; he therefore wishes his coming could be deferred until January next, when their business will be partly well over.

I am with perfect respect,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Tanjore,
7th September, 1776.

Your most obedient servant,

H. HARPER.

In consequence of the above sent the following letters.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

SIR,

We have received your letter dated 7th instant, and in consequence the President has written to the Rajah.

We are,

SIR,

Fort St. George,
10th September, 1776.

Your most obedient servants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

To

To the Rajah of Tanjore.

SIR,

In a letter I have this day received from Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, dated the 7th inſtant, he acquaints me, " that you had mentioned to him, " that the charges exhibited againſt Comaroo had been enquired into, that " he was acquitted thereof, and had my permiſſion to proceed to Tanjore " on his private buſineſs." On which you told Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, " that his coming at this time, when the inhabitants were employed all over " your country in cultivating the lands, it would be attended with a great " inconveniency, as it muſt take a number of people from their buſineſs " in order to ſettle with him; and that you therefore wiſhed his coming " could be deferred until January next, when your buſineſs would be partly " well over." In anſwer to which, I am to acquaint you, that Comaroo left this place ſome days ſince; and though it is my deſire that juſtice be done to all, I am at the ſame time reſolved not to interfere in your Government, having already told you, that I leave to yourſelf the manner and time of ſettling the claims in your country. It is my wiſh, as well as that of the Council, to encourage the cultivation of your country; and therefore, if a preſent enquiry into thoſe claims will impede it, you will of courſe defer it until it may be convenient.

I ſhall always be glad to hear often from you, that I may know you are in good health and happy.

I am with perfect regard,

SIR,

Fort St. George,
10th September, 1776.

Your ſincere friend,

GEORGE STRATTON.

At

At a CONSULTATION the 11th Sept. 1776.

Wednesday, 11th September, 1776.

PRESENT,

George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor.

Henry Brooke,	Sir Robert Fletcher,
Charles Floyer,	Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan.	George Mackay,

Captain Tonyn being arrived here from the southward, in consequence of orders sent to him, and attending, he is now called in, and questioned as follows with respect to the manner in which the Dobbeer was seized at Arialoor.

In order that the most perfect information may be obtained relative to the seizure of the Dobbeer,

RESOLVED, That Captain Tonyn be examined, as well as such other officers, non-commissioned officers and troopers, as were employed on that service.

Questions to Captain Tonyn.

Question 1. Were the orders you received from Lord Pigot, when you proceeded with your troop to bring the Dobbeer to him, in writing or verbal?
Answer. They were in writing.
Question 2. What were the orders?
Answer. He gives them in writing.

Tanjore, 13th April, 1776.

CAPTAIN Tonyn,

SIR,

You are hereby directed to proceed with the troop under your command to Vikarum, and escort from that place hither the Dobbeer, formerly in the

the ſervice of the Rajah of Tanjore. Videna Das Aſtry, who accompanies you, will conduct you to Vikarum. I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

PIGOT.

Queſtion 3. What did you in conſequence of theſe orders? the particulars you will relate.

Anſwer. In conſequence of the orders I immediately proceeded to Vikarum. On my arrival at Vikarum I underſtood the Dobbeer had left that place two days before, and was at that time at Arialoor; in conſequence of which I proceeded to Arialoor without heſitation, and was accompanied by Videna Das Aſtry, one of the Rajah's people, who carried me to the Dobbeer.

Queſtion 4. Is Arialoor an open or encloſed town?

Anſwer. I am not certain whether it is encloſed or not; I imagine it is, as there is a wall on that ſide where I entered.

Queſtion 5. Did you meet with any oppoſition in the execution of the orders you received from Lord Pigot, or in leaving the place?

Anſwer. None.

Queſtion 7. Did you ſee any Seapoys or Centinels when you was at Arialoor, and in particular about the Dobbeer's houſe?

Anſwer. I do not recollect to have ſeen a ſingle Centinel or Seapoy; at leaſt, if there were any, they were not in a military dreſs, ſo as that I could diſtinguiſh them.

Queſtion. Did you ſee any people with arms about the Dobbeer's houſe?

Anſwer. I do not recollect to have ſeen any people with arms.

Queſtion. At what time of the day did you arrive at Arialoor?

Anſwer. I cannot immediately recollect the hour; it was ſomewhat about the middle of the day.

Queſtion 8. In what ſituation did you find the Dobbeer?

Anſwer. He was ſitting in his houſe in an undreſs; I do not remember that he was employed upon any thing in particular.

Queſtion. What did you ſay to the Dobbeer on your arrival at Arialoor?

Anſwer. There was a letter delivered to him by Videna Das Aſtry, and I believe the letter was from the Rajah. The Dobbeer expreſſed much ſatisfaction at receiving the letter, and he propoſed the ſetting out immediately before I had ſaid any thing to him on the ſubject.

Queſtion.

Queftion. When you did fpeak to him what did you fay?

Anfwer. I told him I was come to efcort him to Tanjore, that my men and horfes however wanted refrefhment, and that I therefore could not fet off with him immediately.

Queftion. How long did you remain at Arialoor, before you fet off with the Dobbeer?

Anfwer. We marched very early the next morning.

Queftion. Was the Dobbeer made acquainted that it was neceffary for him to carry any papers, cadjans, or any thing elfe with him to Tanjore?

Anfwer. Not by me.

Queftion. Was he by any perfon elfe to your knowledge?

Anfwer. Not to my knowledge?

Queftion. What papers, cadjans, or baggage did it appear the Dobbeer carried with him to Tanjore?

Anfwer. I faw no papers or cadjans, nor did I know of any; there were I think two or three haecarees with bullocks, but what was in them I do not know.

Queftion. Had Vedenate Das Aftry any private conferences with the Dobbeer?

Anfwer. He may have had private conferences for what I know; I left him with the Dobbeer when I left the Dobbeer's houfe, and there he might have remained for fome time.

Queftion. Did you leave a guard at the Dobbeer's houfe when you quitted it?

Anfwer. I left a trooper centinel at his door.

Queftion. What orders did you give the centinel?

Anfwer. I ordered him to prevent any people from incommoding the Dobbeer.

Queftion. Did you give any further orders to the centinel, fuch as to prevent the Dobbeer or any of his people coming out of his houfe?

Anfwer. The only orders I gave to the centinel were to prevent any people from going into the Dobbeer's houfe, except fuch as he chofe, for I apprehended the Europeans, out of curiofity, might have attempted getting into the houfe, and might become thereby troublefome.

Queftion. Were any other orders, inftructions, or meffages, in writing, or verbal, except the written orders you have laid before the Board, given you by authority, before or after your departure from Tanjore for efcorting the Dobbeer thither?

Anfwer. None; the only orders I received I have laid before the Board.

Queftion. Did you carry from Arialoor any other perfon befides the Dobbeer?

Anſwer. There was another perſon, who I imagined to be one of his people; he accompanied the Dobbeer to Tanjore.

Queſtion. How long did you remain at Vickerum before you proceeded to Arialoor?

Anſwer. I did not halt, but proceeded immediately when I heard the Dubbeer had left the place.

Queſtion. Did you write, or otherwiſe adviſe Lord Pigot from Vickerum, that the Dobbeer was not there, and of your intentions to proceed to Arialoor?

Anſwer. I ordered the troop to march on, but ſtopped myſelf near to Vickerum, and wrote to Lord Pigot, that the Dobbeer had left Vickerum, and was at that time at Arialoor, a place about 15 miles diſtant, and that I was proceeding thither.

Queſtion. Did you receive any anſwer from Lord Pigot before your return to Tanjore?

Anſwer. No; I could not receive an anſwer, as there was not time ſufficient for a hircarrah to go and return.

Queſtion. Did you write any letter from Arialoor to Lord Pigot?

Anſwer. I wrote alſo from Arialoor to Lord Pigot.

Queſtion. What did you ſay in that letter?

Anſwer. I told his Lordſhip the Dobbeer was at Arialoor, and that I ſhould eſcort him the next day to Tanjore, or words to that effect.

Queſtion. You will be pleaſed to explain to the Board the report you made to Lord Pigot upon your return to Tanjore.

Anſwer. On my return to Tanjore, I was informed by ſome of Lord Pigot's ſervants, that his Lordſhip was gone to Vellum; I in conſequence reported to Colonel Harper, that the Dobbeer was arrived, who gave the neceſſary orders for his admittance into the Fort.

Queſtion. What paſſed between you and Lord Pigot when you met relative to the execution of the orders you had received from him?

Anſwer. As I had before reported to Colonel Harper the arrival of the Dobbeer, I made no further report to his Lordſhip.

Queſtion. Did his Lordſhip, at no time, expreſs his approbation of the manner in which you had conducted yourſelf in the bringing the Dobbeer to Tanjore?

Anſwer. I do not recollect particularly that he did; when we were returning to our cantonments, Lord Pigot preſented me with a ſword.

Captain Tonyn ordered to withdraw.

As

As we wish to give the Company and the Governor-General and Council of Bengal every information in our power, concerning the seizure of the Dobbeer,

RESOLVED, That the Commander in Chief be directed to give orders, that Quarter-Master Mackay, of the European troop of cavalry, and such of the non-commissioned officers and troopers as took charge of the Dobbeer at Arialoor, be ordered to the Presidency, to be examined on that subject.

Read Letter from Major Horne.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President, Governor, &c.

Honourable SIR,

I have taken an opportunity of speaking to Lord Pigot, as directed in your letter of yesterday: he answered, that Captain Panton had delivered him a public letter from Bengal, which was addressed to him; that it contained what you had received at Madrass some days ago; and as that immediately concerned him, he thought he ought to have been made acquainted wirh it before. When I observed the delicacy of my conduct with regard to Captain Panton, out of respect to his Lordship, he said he would not wish to do any thing that was the least improper regarding my situation. But the letter was addressed to him, and Captain Panton had informed him he had refused to deliver it to any of the gentlemen at the Fort. As Captain Panton arrived at Madrass in the morning, and had also been at the Commodore's, I did not imagine he had not delivered his public dispatches for Government, or if he had refused declaring his intention to deliver them to Lord Pigot, I should have had directions sent particularly to prevent him, as he did not arrive at the Mount till near 8 o'clock: Sir Edward Hughes sent his Lordship a note last night for the dispatch; he said he would send an answer this morning.

I am with respect,

Honourable SIR,

Mount,
11th September, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

MATTHEW HORNE.

At

At a CONSULTATION, 12th September, 1776.

Thursday, 12th September, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Governor, President.

Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Fletcher,
Charles Floyer, Francis Jourdan,
Archdale Palmer. George Mackay,

RESOLVED, That the following letter be wrote to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in India.

SIR,

Having dispatches to convey to the Company of the greatest consequence, and as we learn that you purpose ordering his Majesty's sloop the Swallow to Suez, we wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity of sending them overland from thence under charge of two gentlemen, to whom we request you will give a passage in that ship, as it is necessary we should take every precaution in our power against sickness or death. The gentlemen who will have charge of our packet are willing to put up with whatever accommodation the Swallow can afford; and we doubt not of your recommending to Captain Panton the giving them the best he can. The advices we intend sending are of the utmost importance to the Company's affairs; we are to request the Swallow may be dispatched as early as possible. Our packet will be ready by to-morrow fe'nnight.

We are, SIR,

Fort St. George,
12th Sept. 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

G. S. and C.

Read Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

To

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

The half batta being allowed again to the fouthward, I take the liberty to requeft, you will be pleafed to favour me with directions, whether the Rajah or the Paymafter is to fupply the Europeans with the ufual quantity of rice.

I am, with refpect,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Tanjore,
September 9, 1776.

Your moft obedient fervant,

H. HARPER.

In confequence the following letter was wrote by the Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

I am directed by the Prefident and Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 9th inftant, and to acquaint you, that the order for half batta refpected only the officers in fuch garrifons where the batta had been heretofore paid: the Europeans and Seapoys muft be fupplied with rice from the Payment, at 70 Pagodas per Garce; it is above that price, agreeable to an order iffued the 7th of June.

I am, SIR,

Fort St. George,
12th September, 1776.

Your moft obedient fervant,

R. S. Secretary.

RESOLVED, That the following letter be wrote to Sir Edward Hughes.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in India.

SIR,

Being informed that Captain Panton, of his Majesty's sloop the Swallow, immediately after his arrival at this place, delivered to Lord Pigot a public letter for this Presidency from the Governor-General and Council in Bengal, we request to know from you, Sir, the truth of this matter, having wrote to that Presidency, that no letter accompanied the box packet our President received from your Secretary some days since for the Honourable the Court of Directors, and which came by the Swallow.

Should the above public letter require our consideration or immediate answer, we look on ourselves as discharged from all responsibility for the consequences that may arise to the nation, or to the Company's concerns, from our not having received this packet in proper time.

We are,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Fort St. George,
12th September, 1776.

Friday, Sept. 13, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION, 13th Sept. 1776.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Governor, President,

Henry Brooke,	Sir Robert Fletcher,
Charles Floyer,	Francis Jourdan,
Archdale Palmer,	George Mackay.

Mr. Secretary Oakely reports to the Board, that late last night Mr. Stone had sent to his rooms the following letters, under a cover, on which is wrote

wrote *per Swallow*, without any direction or notice from whence they came; also a small packet, in wax cloth, directed to Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c: Council of Fort St. George; which, on being opened, contains musters of rupees referred to in one of the above letters, which are now read as follows.

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, President, &c. Council, at Fort St. George.

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

We have now the pleasure to dispatch the Greenwich, Captain Robert Carr, to your Presidency, with 2500 bags of salt-petre, and 576 maunds 29 seer redwood, agreeable to the enclosed invoice and bill of lading, amounting to Current Rupees 29,294.

As you have not yet sent us any redwood by the ships of this season, we were unable to lade more than the quantity above-mentioned on the Greenwich: we leave it to you to add maunds 323 11 to complete the charter-party stipulation of 900 maunds; and as we have inserted the whole amount of this article in the invoice, as if all had been laden here, we request that you will charge the deficiency to be furnished at Fort St. George to the account of this Presidency, in part of the usual supply for this season, and include it accordingly in the invoices of the redwood, which you may transmit to us.

Registers of the certificates granted to the Captain and Officers of the Greenwich, of the precious stones and bullion, which we have licensed to be sent to Europe by that ship, and such other papers as are necessary to be dispatched to the Honourable the Court of Directors by her, accompany this.

We

We propofe to return the Syren Packet to Europe on the 1ft of September, and fhall forward to you duplicate of the letter we write by her in time to go by the Greenwich. We are,

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Fort William,
19th Auguft, 1776.

Your very humble fervants,

WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
GEO. MONSON,
RICHARD BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

To the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, Prefident, &c. Council at Fort St. George.

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

As we have reafon to apprehend that the Arcot Rupees, lately ftruck in our Mint, are not equal in value to the Rupees now coined at Arcot, we ordered a quantity to be affayed comparatively with fome old Arcot Rupees purchafed in the Buzar; and as we find them inferior to thefe, we take the liberty to tranfmit you 100 of each fort; and requeft that you will caufe them to be affayed feparately, and acquaint us of their comparative weight and finenefs with real Arcot Rupees, in order to enable us to afcertain with more accuracy the actual difference. We are,

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Fort William,
19th Auguft, 1776.

Your moft obedient humble fervants,

WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
GEO. MONSON,
RICH. BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

The

ORDERED, That the Rupees be delivered to the Aſſay-Maſter to be aſſayed, and report the ſame.

The Letter to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes being drawn out fair and ſigned,

RESOLVED, That the following Poſtſcript be added thereto, and immediately diſpatched to him.

Poſtſcript to Sir Edward Hughes's letter.

Since writing the foregoing letter, Mr. Secretary Oakely has informed the Board, that Mr. Stone's ſervant left at his rooms late laſt night a packet in wax cloth, containing Rupees, and two letters under an open cover without a direction, but wrote on the back *per Swallow*, and which we conclude to have made part of the packets from the Governor-General, &c. Council to this Preſidency, and to which we allude in the preceding letter. The manner in which theſe letters have been partially conveyed to us does not, in our opinion, furniſh any reaſon for delaying the repreſentation conveyed in the foregoing letter, which we are under the neceſſity of doing only for our own juſtification.

Fort St. George,
13th September, 1776.

We are with eſteem,

G. S. &c. Co.

AGREED, That the Preſident write the following letter to Major Horne.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

Having been much engaged in buſineſs, I could not before ſpare time to anſwer your letter, dated the 11th inſtant.

With reſpect to the public letters delivered to Lord Pigot by Captain Panton the Board have wrote to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes.

 You

You will be pleafed to inform Lord Pigot, that the Board's only reafon for not fending him the refolutions from the Governor-General and Council in Bengal at the time of their arrival, was the apprehenfion that fuch a communication from them at that time might give uneafinefs to his Lordfhip in his prefent fituation, and might be confidered by him as done with that intent.

I am, SIR,

Fort St. George,
13th September, 1776.

Your most obedient fervant,

G. S.

Read the following letter from Vizagapatam.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Efq. Prefident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

We laft night received your commands of the 25th ultimo, to which we fhall pay due obedience.

Conformable to your orders the Proclamation has been publifhed here, and copies thereof fent to Chicacole and Salloor, with directions to have the fame publifhed there.

We are, with refpect,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Vizagapatam,
3d September, 1776.

Your moft obedient humble fervants,

SAMUEL JOHNSON,
J. PERRING,
W. WILLIAMS,
H. CRAWFORD,
NATH. BARLOW.

The

The Export Warehouſe-keeper to be directed to load the redwood on the Greenwich, and to debit account current Bengal for the amount.

The Preſident lays before the Board a Letter, which he has received under the following Addreſs, *To Mr. George* Stratton, who ſtiles himſelf Preſident of the Council, and Governor of Fort St. George.

He acquaints them, that on the 4th inſtant this letter was delivered to Mr. Oakely, the Secretary, by a Peon, from Mr. Munro, the Paymaſter at Chingleput; that when it came into his (the Preſident's) hands, he ſent for Mr. George Smith, a near relation to Mr. Munro, informed him of the circumſtance, and deſired him to write Mr. Munro concerning it. The Preſident took this ſtep, in hopes that Mr. Munro might be convinced of the impropriety of his conduct, and make due reparation for it; but notwithſtanding this act of lenity, he now underſtands from Mr. George Smith, that Mr. Munro ſtill perſiſts in the opinion that the addreſs is proper, and will not alter it.

The Letter being opened is found to contain a return of ſtores at Chingleput, with the following intimation to Mr. Stratton.

SIR,

The accompanying return of ſtores is ſent you for your inſpection.

I remain, SIR,

Chingleput,
3d September.

Your very obedient ſervant,

R. D. MUNRO, Storekeeper.

The orders of the Company expreſs a particular mode of trial for their ſervants, by furniſhing the party accuſed with a copy of the charge, and giving him a reaſonable time to anſwer it; but this can only be meant in caſes where the parties may deny the accuſation, and make it neceſſary to proceed on proof. In the preſent inſtance the party has acknowledged and avowed the fact.

No

No further proof is requisite; and Mr. Munro has had sufficient time to reflect on the impropriety of his conduct, and to repair his fault, if he had thought proper. The Board are of opinion, that he has been treated with all the tenderness and circumspection that the Company recommend.

The terms in which the letter to the President is addressed are highly indecent and disrespectful; and the Board doubt not that the Court of Directors will agree with them, that such a conduct is deserving of the strongest marks of their displeasure, more especially at this particular time.

For these reasons, it is RESOLVED, That Mr. Munro be suspended from the Company's service until the pleasure of the Court of Directors can be known; and the Secretary is desired to signify this resolution to him.

The G Storekeeper represents that the sum of 9— which was the amount of advances for Paddy, and disbursements on that account, in the Tanjore country, which the Rajah in 1771 seized; and that the Nabob, on the capture of Tanjore, agreed to make good to the Company that loss; but the same hath never been received, nor doth it appear whether the same has been demanded.

Colonel Stuart, the acting Commander in Chief, attending, reports to the Board, that orders and regulations had been published to the army the ——— which he has the greatest reason to believe will produce uniformity and exactness in discipline, exercise, and dress of the forces under this Presidency. He has ordered three of the principal merchants to examine into the condition and quality of the grain in the several Goomees, or warehouses, which when compleated he shall make a full report.

The Military Paymaster acquaints the Board, that he has prepared three musters of soldiers cotts, one for each of the garrisons of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Vellour, agreeable to a letter from Colonel Stuart; these musters have been approved by the Members of the Committee of Stores, and he requests the orders of the Board thereon.

ORDERED,

ORDERED, That the Paymaſter be directed to furniſh the ſoldiers with cotts accordingly.

At a CONSULTATION, 14 Sept. 1776. Saturday, 14th Sept. 1776.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Governor, Preſident.

Henry Brooke	Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

Read Letter from Colonel Capper.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Preſident, and Governor, &c. Council, of Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

The letters that I have received this year from England, oblige me to requeſt your permiſſion to return for a ſhort time to ſettle ſome private family affairs, which require my preſence in Europe.

I flatter myſelf my abſence will not be attended with any inconvenience to the ſervice, for the aſſiſtants acting under me are well acquainted with the buſineſs; and I have alſo wrote out particular inſtructions for them, to direct them in every difficult point. I am,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

With great reſpect,

Fort St. George,
14th September, 1776.

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

J. CAPPER, Commiſſary-General.

Read Letter from Sir Edward Hughes.

 Saliſbury,

Salisbury, in Madrass Road, the 14th September, 1776.

SIR and GENTLEMEN,

I have received your two letters of the 12th, and in anfwer to that which came firft to hand, Captain Panton fhall have my orders to give the two Gentlemen, in whofe charge you purpofe fending the Company's packet, a paffage in his Majefty's floop under his command, as far as Suez, and I fhall recommend to that gentleman the giving them the beft accommodations he can.

As I do not conceive that any time can be gained by the failing of the Swallow before the 30th, I have fixed on that for the day of her departure, and am,

SIR and GENTLEMEN,

Your moft obedient humble fervant,

EDWARD HUGHES.

George Stratton, Efquire, Prefident and Governor, &c. Council.

ORDERED, That the receipt be acknowledged, and Colonel Capper having applied to go home on his own private concerns,

RESOLVED, That he be applied to take charge of our advices, and that Mr. James Dighton be alfo requefted to accompany him, that in cafe any accident fhould happen to Colonel Capper, he may take charge of the packet.

Read Letter from Major Horne to the Prefident.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Efquire, Prefident, Governor, &c.

Honourable SIR,

I received your letter yefterday late laft night, and this morning have informed Lord Pigot of the reafon the Board did not fend him the refolutions of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, as directed in your letter.

I have

I have ſpoke to his Lordſhip again concerning the want of the publick papers, and the inconveniency it was to the Secretary; but I cannot find that his Lordſhip appears in the leaſt inclinable to ſend any perſon, in his behalf, to ſelect them from his private papers. He ſaid Mr. Dalrymple would have brought his papers away, but was not ſuffered, and the room being ſealed up was not his doing; I have nothing further to inform you of at preſent, but that I am, with reſpect,

Honourable SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Mount, 14th September, 1776.

MATTHEW HORNE.

The Board muſt here remark, that on 25th of laſt month, Meſſrs. Dalrymple and Stone came to the Fort-houſe; and, on going into the room where Lord Pigot uſually wrote, were told by the Preſident, in preſence of Meſſrs. Brooke, Floyer, and Colonel Stuart, that as they conceived Lord Pigot's private papers were intermixed with theſe of a publick nature, it was propoſed to them, that whenever they, or any other perſons whom Lord Pigot ſhould appoint, thought it neceſſary to ſelect his private papers, the Secretary, or any Member of the Board, would attend them for that purpoſe, to take charge of the public ones: in the mean time, the Preſident recommended to them to put Lord Pigot's ſeal on the door, with that of the Preſident's, to prevent any perſon whatever from going into the ſaid rooms, declaring, that neither himſelf, or, to his knowledge, any of his people, had before entered theſe apartments during Lord Pigot's abſence; with which, both Meſſrs. Dalrymple and Stone appeared perfectly ſatisfied, and very readily aſſented to the affixing the ſeal to the doors that had communication with that apartment; and Mr. Dalrymple, in conſequence, taking Lord Pigot's ſeal out of his pocket, affixed it to the ſeveral doors in the preſence of our Preſident, Meſſrs. Floyer, Brooke, and Colonel Stuart; and then the Preſident propoſed to put his, they aſſented thereto, and it was accordingly affixed.

AGREED, That a letter be wrote to Major Horne, relating the above circumſtances, and to deſire he will communicate to Lord Pigot, requeſting of him to appoint ſuch perſons as he may think proper to execute his buſineſs, and to deliver up the treaſury key, which he told the clerk (Mr. Majendie) was among his papers.

Draught

Draught of the following Letter to the Nabob read and approved.

To the Nabob.

I have had the honour to receive your Highneſs's letter, dated the 29th ultimo,and am particularly happy to obſerve your declaration to co-operate, to the utmoſt of your power, in every meaſure that may tend to the benefit of the Carnatic and the Company's affairs in India.

It is with great juſtice your Highneſs obſerves,that it is abſolutely neceſſary, at this time, to employ our united efforts to defeat the deſigns of the neighbouring powers, and for regulating the affairs of the Carnatic; your Highneſs and the publick know full well the difficulties, which hitherto have prevented that attention being paid to the moſt important buſineſs intruſted to us.

I flatter myſelf that your Highneſs will have no cauſe to complain in future of the conduct of the ſervants of the Company; for my own part it will ever give me ſincere pleaſure to convince you of my eſteem and reſpect for your Highneſs.

I have now the honour to ſend your Highneſs a copy of the reſolutions from the Governor-General and Council in Bengal, and am happy to ſee that their unanimous ſentiments correſpond entirely with my ideas, and, I may venture to aſſure you, with thoſe of every Member of this Council.

I am to requeſt your Highneſs will ſend me copies of the letters you wrote to Lord Pigot, under date,—they being in his Lordſhip's poſſeſſion.

Fort St. George,
14th September, 1776.

Sir Robert Fletcher delivers in the following Minute.

The attempt to offer diſhonour to my memory with the Company, at a period when nothing but the remembrance of my reputation could be thought intereſting to me in this life, was cruel; it was ſo illiberal, that it muſt ſhock thoſe with whom it is meant to operate upon to my diſadvantage; and yet this attempt muſt never be aggravated in its colour, by being founded,as it appears to me, on a breach of confidence, the implied ſecrecy of confidential converſation.

His

His Lordship's charge upon the chief point, that of my supposed conversation with the Nabob, respecting Tanjore and the Company's orders, I positively deny, and am ready to disprove; and I will prove likewise, that if I have had the influence with the Nabob which his Lordship imagines, that that influence has been employed for the good of my Masters, and to my own credit. If three Members of the Board were amused in the hopes of getting the *same Chiefship*, was that a mystery that the Nabob could not unravel? or was that a piece of information to interest the Nabob? There is not a Dubash who could not fathom such policy, or who did not avail himself of the report which was the common talk of the town, but which I never mentioned to the Nabob; but I am accused of a matter still more extraordinary; I am said to encourage the Nabob to opposition to Lord Pigot, by communicating to him the Company's instructions in all the paragraphs from 29 to 34, of their letter to the Commissioners: it were as absurd as unnecessary to oppose a defence to such accusations; they stand self refuted. The first knowledge I had of the paragraphs was from the Durbar; the Nabob had long known of them, and quoted them to me on an occasion which might furnish grounds for an accusation against his Lordship himself, if it be a crime to communicate to the Nabob the Company's orders respecting his rights.

I never could account for the rooted resentment I have found in Lord Pigot towards me, ever since his arrival in India, or for the very extraordinary declarations, which, by my private letters and other accounts, made respecting me before his departure from England, and which Mr. Dalrymple's pointed and rude opposition to every thing I have proposed in Council respecting the army, induced me more than once to hint at to the Board, and to declare, that I was well informed of a design to drive me from the Council, and if possible from India. My health will not permit me, nor indeed does it seem very necessary now to enumerate the many instances of mortification and disgust Lord Pigot has subjected me to since his arrival. The Board, and I believe the whole Colony, know them; and the above facts correspond but too well with what the Nabob declares of the secret methods used with his Highness, and with his eldest son, to prevail with them to give his Lordship any sort of information against me, that could serve as a handle to dismiss me from the service. The Board know well the handsome delcarations of support his Lordship made to me as Commander in Chief, and are sufficiently informed to be able to judge how far those declarations have corresponded with his Lord-

ſhip's military tranſactions, and how far the military tranſactions are conſiſtent with the poſitive commands of the Company, in their late inſtructions reſpecting the powers of the Governor, and thoſe of the Commander in Chief. Upon the preſent occaſion, I ſhall only refer to the accompanying Orders, ſigned by Captain Wood, and ſent to Colonel Flint at Poondreemalee, and which I ſay is a direct violation of the Company's orders, and a ſuperceſſion uf the powers veſted in me by thoſe orders. The Board muſt remember, that I was deſirous the above circumſtance might be diſavowed by Lord Pigot, or acknowledged as a miſtake, and that I endeavoured at the Board to get his Lordſhip to give it that turn; but as his Lordſhip, inſtead of doing ſo, ſeemed to maintain his own power of ſending ſuch orders, I deſire that the order may be entered on the Conſultations, together with this minute. I likewiſe ſend my Aid de Camp's account of what paſſed between his Lordſhip and him upon the ſubject of taking from me my guard, as Commander in Chief, which I was then deprived of in conſequence of that converſation; the converſation was committed to paper immediately after it paſſed. It is true that the guard at his Lordſhip's garden was removed at the ſame time; but that guard was replaced in a few days after, and I never had a man of mine returned.

To Colonel Flint.

SIR,

I am ordered by the Right Honourable Lord Pigot to ſend priſoners to the garriſon under your command, two men of your battalion, taken up by the inhabitants of Magolavaram for forcing one of their wives; the evidences to prove this charge are Grooapah, Chingat, and Moorty, inhabitants of the aforeſaid village in your diſtricts, who have orders to attend on your ſummons at the Court Martial, which his Lordſhip orders ſhall be held for the trial of the offenders.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
7th May, 1776.

(Signed)

R. WOOD, Town-Major.

I was

I was directed by Sir Robert Fletcher to wait on Lord Pigot, and to acquaint his Lordſhip, that the Company of Markſmen was very ſhort of its compliment, owing to a great many men having leave to return to the Circar battalions, at their own requeſt, on account of the great diſtance they were at from their families; that if the Company was divided, it would looſe its diſcipline, and be of no uſe as Markſmen; but that notwithſtanding this, if his Lordſhip ſtill deſired half the Company ſhould be ſent to his gardens, Sir Robert Fletcher would order them. May 20, 1776, Time of Dinner.

This meſſage I delivered to Lord Pigot, who anſwered, that Sir Robert Fletcher, as well as himſelf, muſt be ſenſible how ſevere the duty was on the battalions in Madraſs, which could not furniſh the neceſſary guards, he believed that Sir Robert would endeavour to make it eaſy to them, and that this was his motive for ſending for part of the Markſmen, that he might then ſend his own guard to the battalion it belonged to. I again told his Lordſhip, that the number of Markſmen at preſent at head quarters was inſufficient to furniſh guards both for him and Sir Robert Fletcher, but that there was enough for one guard, and that if the General ſent the Seapoys he had as a guard from the battalions doing duty at Madraſs to join their corps, that the Markſmen could furniſh centries at head quarters in their room; to which his Lordſhip replied, that it was indifferent to him how it was ſettled; but that he wiſhed to leſſen the duty of the battalions, in which he expected to be aſſiſted by Sir Robert, he deſired me to deliver this meſſage to; but his Lordſhip did not tell me that he wanted the Markſmen, after the reaſons I gave him from Sir Robert Fletcher why they could not be ſpared.

N. B. His Lordſhip alſo obſerved, that as the Councellors had only a guard of ſeven men each, it would appear extraordinary to them, that Sir Robert ſhould have ſuch a number of men, which with the Markſmen would amount to eighty.

Aid de Camp.

At

At a CONSULTATION, 18th September, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Governor, President.

Henry Brooke	Sir Robert Fletcher
Charles Floyer	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay

The Secretary lays before the Board the following papers, which he has received from Mr. Dalrymple, belonging to the Diary of Consultation, the 22d and 23d August.

To Claud Russell, Esquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Alexander Dalrymple, Charles Floyer, John Maxwell Stone, Archdale Palmer, Richard Latham, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, Esquires.

GENTLEMEN,

The Right Honourable the President desires your attendance in Council to-morrow morning at ten o'clock in the Fort-House. I am respectfully,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

10 o'clock, Thursday.

To George Stratton, Esquire.

SIR,

I am ordered by the Right Honourable the President and Council to acquaint you, that they have thought proper to suspend you from the Company's service, until the Company's pleasure shall be known.

I am, SIR,

Fort St. George,
22d August, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

To

To Henry Brooke, Esquire.

S I R,

I am ordered by the Right Honourable the Prefident and the Council to acquaint you, that they have thought proper to fufpend you from the Company's fervice, until the Company's pleafure fhall be known.

I am, S I R,

Fort St. George,
22d Auguft, 1776.

Your moft obedient humble fervant,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Mr. Stone's Minute.

Having yefterday given my opinion in favour of the Prefident's motion for fufpending Meff. Stratton and Brooke, I here beg leave to offer my reafons in fupport thereof. It is not for me to determine, whether the Prefident has or has not a power to refufe his fanction to any refolution of the majority of the Council, neither do I think the majority of the Council competent to determine thereon; it is a fubject on which the Court of Directors alone muft pafs judgment: they appointed the Governor, and beft know what power and authority they meant to lodge in his hands. If he has no fuch authority, or having it, if he exercifes it improperly, he is anfwerable to the Company. The Council have not, in my opinion, by virtue of any orders or inftructions from the Company, a power to compel the Governor to fubfcribe to any refolution of the majority, or to force him to give a fanction thereto; and I think they could ftand fufficiently juftified in entering their fentiments and diffents on the records, whenever they thought the Prefident affumed a power which he hath not, or exercifed any that he hath improperly.

Although I think myfelf not competent to determine, whether the Prefident hath or hath not a power of withholding his fanction from any refolution of the majority of the Council, I will maintain, that as the Prefident cannot do or act without the concurrence of the Council, or the majority of them, fo the Council are not authorized to carry into execution any refolution without the fanction of the Governor.

The

The Governor I consider as the executive power of the Board, and it is his province to superintend and see that the business of the settlement is conducted in a proper and regular channel. It is the Governor alone who, by the Company's express commands, is to correspond with the Country Powers. If the Governor should refuse to carry into execution a resolution of the Council, or the majority of them, for writing to any of the Country Powers, I know not what means the Council can take to compel him; they cannot write themselves without disobeying the positive orders of the Company. I am moreover, clearly of opinion, that no officer can obey the orders of the Council without the President. The express words of their commissions are, that they are to obey such orders as they may receive from the President and Council, and they must be taken in their literal sense, in the construction of the words of a commission; nothing can be taken by implication, and if the order proposed had been sent to Colonel Stuart, I think he could not have obeyed it without great risque to himself.

Seeing therefore the Members of the Council attempting to carry into execution their own resolutions, without the sanction of the Governor, which appears to me essentially necessary, I cannot but consider such a step as tending to subvert all order and good government, and could not fail, if suffered to pass, to throw the Company's affairs into anarchy and confusion. This induced to me support the President's motion, however nuknown the task, and I cannot but think that the Court of Directors, seeing the necessity of the case, will approve the measure, as the only one that could have been adopted to preserve order and good government in the management of their affairs.

J. M. STONE.

Mr. Dalrymple's Minute.

Mr. Dalrymple thinks the reference to Mr. Vansittart's narrative, in the minute No. 1, in yesterday's consultation, so far from conveying any argument that the resolutions of the majority of Council ought to be carried into effect against the Governor's opinion, is the strongest argument that can be urged against the measure, as Mr. Vansittart's giving way brought the Company's affairs to a most alarming crisis; to the allegations urged in debate, that Mr. Vansittart knew the Company's constitution as well as any man, and that therefore his opinions had great weight, I did then remark, that Mr. Vansittart gave a seat in Council to Commodore Tinker, which was a most unwarranted and unconstitutional act.

I wished

I wished the gentlemen to have taken time to have given an answer in writing to the charge brought against them by the President, and never took the liberty of giving such advice to one of them; but as they have thought proper not to do so, I now give my opinion for the question, because I think an attempt to issue the proposed orders, without the sanction of the President's signature, of dangerous tendency to the Company's affairs, by subverting all order and good government, and involving the whole community in confusion, and this too when the interest of the Company was not the least concerned; and because I think the officer to whom they were directed, could not by his commission have obeyed them.

Being appealed to, we think it incumbent on us to say, we saw no impropriety in the manner in which the President took the paper directed to Mr. Secretary Sulivan, and signed by Messrs. Stratton and Brooke.

C. RUSSELL.
A. DALRYMPLE.
J. M. STONE.

Translation of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 16th August, 1776.

Enclosed herewith I send you three notes of hand for the sum of one lack, forty-two thousand, six hundred and fifty pagodas on account of the following Kists; on account of the Kist of Trepasore, &c. Company's Jaghire districts due the end of June last, one lack and twenty-four thousand pagodas; on account of the Kists for the Poonamelee district, due respectively the beginning of the months of May, June, July and August last, eighteen thousand six hundred and fifty pagodas; you will be so good as to write a receipt for the above sum.—What can I say more?

Translation of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 17th, received 18th August, 1776.

The letters you wrote me upon the subject of Trepasore, &c. districts of the Company's Jaghire, gave me great pleasure. I accept of the terms mentioned in your letter of the 27th July, I was always attentive to them, but shall now be more so than before. Agreeably to your desire, I shall send you the particulars of the accounts of the weavers as soon as they are prepared.—What can I say more?

Friday,

Friday, 23d August, 1776, at four o'Clock.

The town Mayor having waited on the Governor whilst at dinner, with a letter to him from Charles Bromley, notary public, sent by direction of Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, Esquires, of Council, and George Stratton and Henry Brooke, accompanying copy of the papers signed by them, and delivered to the President; in the evening the Governor desired Mess. Russell, Dalrymple, Stone and Latham to accompany him to the Consultation-Room, to deliberate thereupon; accordingly the Secretary attending, the letter was read as follows:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President, &c. Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Esquires, of Council, at Fort St. George.

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

We whose names are under-written, being of Council, and constituting a majority thereof, taking into our most serious consideration the proceedings upon record at the two last meetings; and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the Constitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our number, by an illegal attempt to suspend them, in order by a trick to gain a majority, are of opinion, that the public safety is in danger by the conduct of Lord Pigot, and you, Gentlemen, who have supported, and by every person who shall continue to support such measures, and we shall hold you thereof responsible for all the consequences that may ensue. We the majority of the Board do consider ourselves as the only legal representatives of the Honourable Company under this Presidency, and as such we have no doubt but all the servants of the Company will regard us. For these reasons, and the evident illegality of the summons to Council for this morning, in which are omitted the names of Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal members of the Board.

Board, we cannot, consistently with the duty we owe to our Honourable Employers, attend the said summons. We are,

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Madrass, 23d August, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
HENRY BRCOKE,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEORGE MACKAY.

The Secretaries acquaint the Board they have received similar letters.

The President, whilst in consultation, received information that the like have been issued to the officer of the main guard, as well as to other officers in garrison, to the Commander of the Company's Ship London, and also to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships. Mr. Bromley, the notary public, being sent for, and asked by whose authority or orders he circulated these letters, declares to the Board, that it was in consequence of the positive directions given at Sir Robert Fletcher's house to him as notary publick, by all the gentlemen who subscribed the paper delivered by him this morning to the President, and declared he would be ready to attest the fact whenever called on.

The Board considering this act as tending to excite and cause mutiny and sedition in the troops in this garrison, resolved to order Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher into arrest, and to try him for being concerned in circulating letters, tending to excite and cause mutiny and sedition in the troops in this garrison, in consequence of which, the Secretary is now directed to issue the following orders.

To Sir Robert Fletcher.

When the paper delivered by the notary publick to the President was read this morning, the President and Council being inclined to let the gentlemen have some time to consider of the impropriety of their conduct, did

not then come to any resolution thereupon, but their behaviour in circulating these papers requires an immediate determination; whereupon it is Resolved unanimously, that Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, be suspended from the Company's service, 'till the Company's pleasure be known, and agreed that the following letter be sent to each of those gentlemen.

To Sir Robert Fletcher, Brigadier-General, &c.

I am directed by the Right Honourable the President and Council to acquaint you, that they hereby order you in arrest, for being concerned in circulating letters, tending to excite and cause mutiny and sedition among the troops in this garrison: signed by order of the Right Honourable the President and Council this 23d day of August, 1776.

The Right Honourable the President and Council having been pleased to order Brigadier General Sir Robert Fletcher in arrest, for being concerned in circulating letters, tending to excite and cause mutiny and sedition among the troops in the garrison, Colonel James Stuart is ordered to take upon him the command of the troops under this Presidency, by order of the President and Council; and all reports and returns are to be sent to him accordingly.
Fort St. George,
23d August, 1776.

To Charles Floyer, Esquire.
Archdale Palmer, Esquire.
Francis Jourdan, Esquire.
George Mackay, Esquire.

SIR,

The President and Council, unwilling to proceed to extremity, were inclined to give you some time to consider the impropriety of your conduct, in delivering, by the hands of a notary publick this morning to the President, a paper, tending to subvert the authority of Government; but finding that you have since then united in circulating that paper to the officer of the main guard, and many other officers in this garrison, and to the commander of the Company's ship London, as well as the secretaries of the Council; they

they think they cannot, consistent with their duty to the Company, delay suspending you from the Company's service; and they have accordingly suspended you therefrom, until the Company's pleasure be known.

Signed by the order of the President and Council,

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

At a CONSULTATION, 19th September, 1776,

PRESENT, Thursday, 19th September, 1776.

The Honourable George Stratton, Esquire, Governor, President.

Henry Brooke, Archdale Palmer, George Mackay.	Charles Floyer, Francis Jourdan,

Sir Robert Fletcher indisposed.

Read and approved a draught of a letter to the Honourable Court of Directors.

Mr. Jourdan begs leave to deliver in the following minute, respecting the 51st paragraph of the above-mentioned letter.

I have, in a former consultation, shewn the advantages that would result to the Company, the Nabob, and the Rajah of Tanjore, from having but one general establishment of troops for the defence of the Carnatic; it were to be wished this could be rendered agreeable to the Nabob; but although he seems averse from it, he keeps a body of horse which would be employed on the publick defence, and the expense of which, added to what he pays the Governor for troops kept on his account, is about the proportion that would be borne by him in a general establishment of troops, according to the amount of his revenues compared with that of the Nabob; on this principle, I think the Rajah's offer ought to be accepted, with this condition, that if it shall be judged necessary to increase the establishment of the Company's

pany's troops for the defence of the Tanjore country, the expenſe be borne out of this allowance; or if it ſhould not be deemed neceſſary that the balance, after payment of the troops, &c. at Tanjore, be kept as a fund for the ſupport of any war in which the Carnatick may be involved; I never had an idea that any other advantage ought to reſult to the Company from the acceptance of the Rajah's offer, than an increaſe of ſecurity.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Read letter from Major Horne.

The Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident, Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

I received your commands of the 15th, and informed Lord Pigot that the Grenville would be diſpatched for Europe the 21ſt inſtant; I likewiſe made his Lordſhip acquainted with the purport of your letter, reſpecting the ſealing up the rooms where his Lordſhip and ſome of the public papers were, and Mr. Majendie's information of the key of the treaſury being there alſo, and intimated to his Lordſhip, that it was hoped he would ſee the neceſſity of ſending ſome perſon he could confide in, to ſelect the public from the private papers, and that he would direct his key of the treaſury to be delivered up.

To theſe applications his Lordſhip anſwered, he could not admit of the legality of the late meaſures, and therefore could neither anſwer to the Company or himſelf the delivering over the key of the treaſury; and regarding the papers, his Lordſhip ſaid the Triton's general letter was along with his papers, but a duplicate muſt have arrived in the Hector, and he believed there were no other publick papers, except ſome private inſtructions from the Company to himſelf, reſpecting ſecret orders to the Captains of their ſhips, which Captain Abercromby might receive from him.

His Lordſhip deſires that in my letter I would ſignify to you, that he expected you would furniſh him with a copy of your letter to the Company by the Grenville, that he might be informed of what you might alledge againſt

against him, which he conceived was right, as he had furnished you with the copy of the letter of complaint he was sending home on his part.

I am very respectfully,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Mount,
17th September, 1776.

Your most obedient humble servant,

MATW HORNE.

Read the following letter and paper, enclosed from Sir Edward Hughes.

Salisbury in Madrass Road, the 18th day of September, 1776.

SIR and GENTLEMEN,

Lord Pigot having referred me to a paper sworn to by Mr. Randall, late in the service of his Highness the Nabob, as a farther reason why his Lordship should claim the protection of the King's flag, I think it incumbent on me to lay before you such part of the affidavit, as relates to the insecurity of his Lordship's person without that protection. I am,

SIR and GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble servant,

EDWD HUGHES.

George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c.
Council of Fort St. George.

William Randall, gentleman, now or late Captain in the service of the Nabob Mahomed Ally Khan, and Aid de Camp to his son, commonly called or known by the name of the Ameer ul Omrah, &c. commander of the army of the said Nabob, maketh oath and says, that soon after the arrival of the Right Honourable George Lord Pigot at Madrass, he, the said Ameer ul Omrah, &c. frequently, but with great privacy, proposed to the deponent, that he, the said deponent, should destroy and take away the

7 L life

life of the ſaid George Lord Pigot; at the ſame time deſiring the deponent to intereſt and engage one Lieutenant Benjamin Gourd, commanding the guard of the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah, in ſome ſcheme or other for the deſtroying and taking away the life of the ſaid George Lord Pigot. That the deponent, William Randall, ſhocked at the iniquity of ſuch a propoſal, and knowing the weakneſs of the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah, ſeldom made any other reply, than ridiculouſly adviſing the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah to make a preſent of the large Tyger, uſually kept in the Bazar at Triplicanes, to the ſaid Right Honourable George Lord Pigot, and if his Lordſhip was pleaſed to be very intimate and familiar with the Tyger, he, the *Tyger*, might ſome time or other accompliſh the buſineſs ſo much deſired and wiſhed for by the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah. That the deponent, willing to diſcover if the Ameer ul Omrah had ever intruſted any other perſon with his diabolical inclinations, often deſired the ſaid Ameer to engage ſome other perſon with the deponent, in the propoſed ſcheme of deſtroying the ſaid Right Honourable George Lord Pigot; and upon this requeſt, the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah declared he had or would engage one Comaroo, a Dubaſh to Paul Benfield, Eſq. of Madraſs, to kill the ſaid George Lord Pigot, by cauſing poiſon to be put in the food of the ſaid George Lord Pigot. That the deponent went to the houſe of the ſaid Comaroo, in the black town of Madraſs, by particular invitation, expecting to have this new ſcheme of deſtruction propoſed to him; the deponent met at the houſe of the ſaid Comaroo, in company, a Dubaſh, in the ſervice of the ſaid Right Honourable George Lord Pigot; that the deponent don't know the name of the ſaid Dubaſh, but well remembers his perſon; that the ſaid Comaroo preſented the deponent with a ſhawl at quitting his houſe: From ſome converſation which paſſed, the deponent is convinced the ſaid Comaroo was acquainted with th iniquitous intentions of the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah. That the Ameer has often taken a piſtol from the table in his hall, when the ſaid deponent has been preſent ſaying, " here is phyſic for ſomebody," looking at the deponent at the ſame time. That the deponent's ſcheme of propoſing to the ſaid Ameer to engage ſome other perſon in the buſineſs was, that on the oaths of two witneſſes the ſaid Ameer might be charged before a juſtice of the peace with his wicked intentions, and have ſuffered for his iniquity by a courſe of law. That the deponent had always intentions of making this depoſition.

Madraſs, WILLIAM RANDALL.
15th September, 1776.

Sworn to before me,

JOHN TURING, Mayor.

AGREED,

AGREED, That the following anſwer be wrote to Sir Edward Hughes.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's Ships in India.

SIR,

We have had the honour to receive your letter, dated the 18th inſtant, with copy of the depoſition of William Randall.

The matter therein contained being quite new to us, we have ſent a copy of the depoſition to his Highneſs the Nabob, whoſe anſwer we ſhall tranſmit to you.

We can only ſay, that ever ſince we have been under the neceſſity of putting a reſtraint upon Lord Pigot, his perſonal ſafety has been a principal object of our conſideration. We appeal to the alternatives offered to his Lordſhip, either of a place of ſecurity in Chingleput, a reſidence in a chiefſhip, or of a paſſage to England.

We ſhall tranſmit to Major Horne a copy of the affidavit, which will we hope ſatisfy Lord Pigot, that what it contained cannot in any degree affect his Lordſhip's ſafety.

We have the honour to be,

SIR,

Fort St. George,
19th September, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Read Letter from Major Horne.

The Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident, Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

I received your letter of the 17th inſtant, accompanying a copy of a letter from Mr. Benfield to your Honours, and alſo a copy of your reply to Mr.

Mr. Benfield, and in obedience to your orders communicated to Lord Pigot the contents of those letters, and informed his Lordship, that should he require it I shall furnish him with copies of them.

I am with respect,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Mount,
18th September, 1776.

Your most humble servant,

MATw HORNE.

Read the following Letter from Mr. Duncan Munro.

To George Stratton, Esq. Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires.

GENTLEMEN,

I received on the 14th instant a letter from Mr. Sulivan, your Secretary, intimating to me that you had suspended me from the service of the Honourable Company, until their pleasure can be known; and further directing me to deliver up the Company's money, stores, &c. in my charge, to Captain Mackarell, commandant at Chingleput, which I have done, apprehending, in case of a refusal, that the same violence which has constituted, and now supports your authority, might have been exercised against me; and thus I have submitted to, not obeyed, your mandate through your secretary. I cannot, in justice to my Honourable Masters, whose money and stores were under my care, as pay-master of their fort of Chingleput, but protest in their names against you for any loss or damage which may accrue to their effects, in consequence of my delivery of them by reason of your orders. And in regard to the particular injury done to myself, I beg leave to inform you, that I do consider you in your persons and estates responsible to me for all damages and losses, which may arise to me from your illegal suspension of me from my employment in the Company's service, not only in respect to the illegality of the act itself, but to the neglect of the orders of the Honourable Court of Directors, which have, if I am not misinformed, been enjoined to this Presidency as well as to the Gover-

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nor-General and Council of Bengal, " That before the removal of any " Company's servant from any office, the party be made acquainted with " the accusation preferred against him; that he be summoned to make his de- " fence, having a reasonable time allowed him for that purpose; and that " you proceed, on all such occasions, with the greatest tenderness and cir- " cumspection;" having no doubt but the laws of my country, and the justice of my Honourable Employers, will afford me ample satisfaction and indemnification on this score.

As I have a right to demand an attested copy of your proceedings relative to myself, I shall therefore expect to be furnished with one. You will be pleased to make this a number in the packet per ship Grenville now under dispatch.

Lest by any accident there should hereafter be a doubt of your having received this letter, I am to desire that you will be pleased to signify to me the receipt, by yourselves or your Secretary, to avoid the trouble of employing a notary.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Fort St. George,
16th September, 1776.

Your most obedient servant,

RT. DN. MUNRO.

ORDERED, That the Secretary do furnish Mr. Munro with a copy of the minute of Consultation respecting him.

AT A CONSULTATION, 23d September, 1776. Monday, 23d September, 1776.

PRESENT,

The Honourable George Stratton, Esq. Governor, President.

Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Fletcher,
Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan. George Mackay,

The minutes of the last Consultation read and approved.

General Letters of this day's date to the Honourable the Court of Directors, per Ship Grenville, ſigned.

ORDERED, That the packet be cloſed.

A true copy from the minutes of Conſultation.

R: J. SULIVAN, Secretary.